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Free to Deployed Areas

"I don't want to put the cart before the horse." — Barack Obama

US LACKS MIDEAST STRATEGY

Obama: US seeks long-term plan, aid from allies before pursuing military action

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Pro-Russia separatists seize key town

BY PETER LEONARD
AND NATALIYA VASILYEVA
The Associated Press

NOVOAZOVSK, Ukraine — Pro-Russia separatists, relaxed and well-equipped, held firm control on Friday of the strategic coastal town of Novozovsk, a day after Ukraine claimed tanks and armored vehicles had invaded from Russia.

Associated Press reporters saw at least a half-dozen tanks in the town of about 12,000 people, bearing the flags of Novorossiia, the would-be state proclaimed by rebels in two eastern Ukraine regions.

None of the tanks bore Russian markings, but ready-made meals seen near one of the tanks carried markings that they were

issued by the Russian army.

"There is no Russian equipment coming through here. We are fighting with the machinery the (Ukrainian forces) abandon. They just dump it and flee," said a rebel commander who identified himself only by the nom-de-guerre Frantsuz, or "The Frenchman."

SEE SEPARATISTS ON PAGE 6

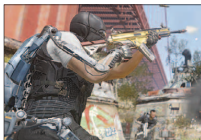


A resident passes by a camouflaged pro-Russian tank in Novozovsk, Ukraine, on Friday. At least half a dozen tanks were seen on roads around the town.

SERGEI GRITS/AP

VIDEO GAMES

New customizable 'Call of Duty' takes franchise into future
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Paintball club makes a 'splat' in Afghanistan
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We can use guns for positive things and also for negative things. These guns are for entertainment."

— Ali Noori, a customer of a paintball club in Afghanistan

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Russia replies to Canada's tweet depicting colorful Ukraine 'map'
2. F-15 pilot in Virginia crash was killed, military officials say
3. Army in the Pacific adopts new style of deployment
4. Female fighters of the PKK may be the Islamic State's worst nightmare
5. Appeal for US soldier convicted in '03 grenade attack in Kuwait

COMING SOON



Shifting Gears
Challenging Ford's F-series

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MILITARY

Pilot killed in F-15 crash a decorated combat veteran

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Massachusetts Air National Guard has identified the decorated combat veteran killed Wednesday when the F-15C fighter he was flying slammed into a remote, heavily forested part of western Virginia.

"On behalf of the family of our fallen pilot and with a sense of profound sadness, I am sad to share that Lt. Col. Morris 'Moose' Fontenot Jr., was killed tragically in Wednesday's F-15 crash," said Col. James Keefe, commander of the 104th Fighter Wing, based in Westfield, Mass. "We all continue to keep the Fontenot family in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time."

Fontenot served full-time as the unit's wing inspector general, overseeing the Air Force's inspection procedures, and as an F-15 instructor pilot with more than 17 years' experience flying the jets, wing officials said.

A 1996 Air Force Academy graduate, he'd most recently served as commander of the 67th Fighter Squadron based in Kadena Air Force Base in Japan, and had been deployed numerous times to the Middle East.

His medals and decorations included the Meritorious Service

Medal, the Air Medal and the Aerial Achievement Medal.

In a news conference the previous day in Deerfield, Va., near the site of the crash, Brig. Gen. Robert Brooks, Commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, said rescuers could tell from the debris at the crash site, described earlier as a "crater," by Virginia authorities, that the pilot remained with the F-15 until impact, The Associated Press reported.

"We just found evidence that the ejection seat was with the aircraft," Brooks said.

He would not comment on whether remains had been found, AP reported, but he said, "We bring every airman home."

Earlier, several helicopters and a HC-130 with nighttime search capability joined 10 teams of searchers on the ground looking for Fontenot.

In all, about 100 searchers were involved, authorities said. The site, itself, according to a report in the (Staunton, Va.) News-Leader was too "hot" to approach, and there had been a witness statement about seeing a parachute.

Fontenot radioed air traffic controllers about a problem with his F-15C fighter about 9 a.m. Wednesday while flying at an altitude between 30,000 and



AMERICA E. N. JACOBS/Provided by the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Lt. Col. Morris Fontenot stands near aircraft at Komatsu Air Base, Japan, in December 2013. Fontenot was killed after the F-15 he was piloting crashed in Virginia on Wednesday.

40,000 feet, Keefe said.

The plane, which Fontenot was flying to Naval Air Station New Orleans for a radar upgrade, went down in the George Washington National Forest minutes later, leaving a sizable crater and a field of debris near a mountain known as Elliott Knob, Virginia police authorities said.

The Air Force later secured the crash site, and representatives from a host of other local agencies were on hand, officials said, including the Virginia Na-

tional Guard, the Augusta County sheriff and fire officials, the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, the FBI and the U.S. Forest Service.

Massachusetts Air National Guard officials said they could not release further details about the nature of the problem with the aircraft nor the sequence of events leading to the crash because of an ongoing investigation.

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Obama taps experienced diplomat to be Afghan envoy

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is tapping a veteran diplomat with experience in Kabul to be the next U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan.

The White House said Michael McKinley is Obama's pick to re-

place Ambassador James Cunningham, who has served since 2012.

McKinley is currently Cunningham's deputy at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

Before arriving in Afghanistan, he served as the

U.S. ambassador to Colombia and to Peru.

That means he's already been confirmed by the Senate, although his nomination to the new job will still require confirmation.

His nomination comes amid

a long-running dispute over the results of Afghanistan's presidential election.

The U.S. needs a new leader in place to sign an agreement with the U.S. to keep some American forces in Afghanistan past the end of this year.

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MILITARY



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Lance Cpl. Indy Johnson, with 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, recoils while taking fire from insurgent positions during a fight with the Taliban near the Bari Gul Bazaar, Nad Ali District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, in December 2013.

Deactivating the 'Walking Dead'

Historic Marine battalion falls victim to budget cuts

By JONATHAN DREW
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Decades before the television show, a Marine Corps battalion decorated for extensive combat in World War II and Vietnam earned the nickname the "Walking Dead."

Now the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, which also saw action in Iraq and Afghanistan, was deactivated during a ceremony Friday at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. The step comes as top U.S. military and political leaders move to trim the size of America's military after more than a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Marine Corps historians say the battalion appears to have gotten the nickname because of its high rate of casualties during the Vietnam War. But the unit also has a reputation for heroism that included Medal of Honor recipients at Guam and Iwo Jima during World War II and two in Vietnam.

Formed during World War I, the battalion had previously been deactivated in 1994 and reactivated in 2007. Its insignia depicts a cloaked grim reaper carrying a scythe.

Retired Marine Col. Wesley Fox, who received the Medal of Honor while leading a company within the battalion in Vietnam, said he resents the deactivation.

"Not a better battalion in the world. I don't know why they're the ones who keep getting put on the bench but that's the way it goes in guess," Fox said.

The deactivation comes as the Pentagon plans to reduce the size of the Marine Corps by several thousand to 182,000 by 2016 and could cut further. The Corps' wartime peak in recent years was more than 200,000.

More than 300 battalion members who



Members of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines ride on a vehicle carrying four 106 mm recoilless rifles near Khe Sanh in Vietnam on July 3, 1968.

have been reassigned to other units participated in Friday's ceremony, which included each platoon or company marching to the reviewing stand to salute the battalion commander. Veterans of the unit are also gathering for a reunion.

A memo by Marine Corps historian Annette Amerman says the nickname was changed for at least a while starting in 1984 to "Walking Death" and the insignia became a dragon because some members thought the older nickname was derogatory. However, when the battalion was reactivated in 2007, "Walking Dead" was once again embraced and the battalion's official Marine Corps website currently bears the grim reaper design.

On the eve of the deactivation, Fox recalled first hearing the nickname in 1968 from a personnel officer.

"He asked me if I wanted the 1/9, and I said that sounded good to me. He did the paperwork," said Fox, who's 82. "Then he asked: 'Have you ever heard of the Walking Dead?' My response to him was: 'Maybe a better name is the Walking Death.'"

Gitmo nurse's force-feeding case may test military policy

By CAROL ROSENBERG
The Miami Herald

No decision has been made on whether the U.S. Navy will court-martial a nurse who refused to force-feed hunger strikers at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, during the summer, the nurse's commander says.

Those who are watching the case say a military trial could put a spotlight on both Guantanamo's hunger-strike policy and how the military manages medical-ethics issues.

Retired Navy Capt. Albert J. Shinkus Jr., who teaches at the U.S. Navy War College in Newport, R.I., calls it "an important time, not only for this individual but also an important time for military medicine and how we interact with our patient and the process by which these decisions are made."

The nurse, who has been identified as a Navy lieutenant, reportedly turned conscientious objector after handling months of feedings. He was sent home early to the Naval Health Clinic New England in Newport, R.I., this month after serving with the 139-member Navy medical staff assigned to care for Guantanamo's 149 detainees.

Navy Capt. Maureen M. Pennington, his commander, said Wednesday that the nurse was on leave this week, spending time with friends and family members, and that his way forward had yet to be decided.

At Guantanamo, "there was an investigation done and currently it's under review. The process has started."

Whatever the outcome, two former senior military medical officers said the case would serve as a significant precedent.

If it plays out with a court-martial, that will allow an airing of the facts. So far, the only description of how the refusal occurred has come from an attorney for a detainee who said the nurse willingly took part in the process for several months but became disenchanted.

The prison spokesman confirmed there had been a refusal, but gave no details.

Shinkus, who spent four decades in Navy medicine, served as Guantanamo's first detention-center commander of medical operations. He said the case tests military medicine's ability to accommodate "any professional who does due diligence with regard to providing a treatment and then considers that treatment to be something that patient doesn't desire — even in a national-security environment."

Ethics are not black and white, he said, and from what little is known about the case, it appears that the force-feeding process "began to weigh on his conscience over time, and I think he made a choice that, in my professional life, I can't participate in this."

The case is also likely to drive a review of "the process of how to excuse oneself" when a health provider in uniform navigates the "dual loyalty question" of obligation to the nation versus the obligation to the patient.

Retired Army Brig. Gen. Stephen Xenakis, a psychiatrist who has examined Guantanamo captives, also says a court-martial could end up putting Guantanamo's hunger-strike policy on trial.

During the 1980s, he notes, military doctors were allowed not only to refuse to perform abortions but also to proclaim their opposition to doing them. "And we didn't prosecute them." But something about medical autonomy changed during the war on terror.

"The issue is that, with this war, there has been a shift in what has been the professional autonomy of clinicians. They've been subordinated to the combat arms, to the war-fighters," says Xenakis.

MIDEAST

Obama: US lacking plan for Islamic State

By KAREN DEYOUNG
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Amid conflicting congressional demands, impatient Arab allies, and public concern that he will do too much or too little, President Barack Obama made bluntly clear Thursday why he has not yet implemented a comprehensive U.S. response to the Islamist insurgency that is rapidly spreading across the Middle East.

"We don't have a strategy yet," Obama said, in response to questions about when he is prepared to begin military action in Syria, and, if not, why not?

Rarely has a president spoken so plainly.

"I don't want to put the cart before the horse," he said. The suggestion that "we're about to go full scale on an elaborate strategy for defeating ISIL ... that we'll start moving forward imminently and somehow Congress, still out of town, is going to be left in the dark, that's not what's going to happen." ISIL is one of several acronyms referring to the Islamic State.

Instead, the president said in a White House news conference, he has asked the Pentagon to prepare options while he puts together a broad, long-term plan including military, political, economic and diplomatic aspects and continues recruiting partner countries in the region and beyond to help carry it out.

"We're not going to do that alone," he said of the still-in-the-works strategy. "We're going to have to do that with other partners."

Many of those potential partners said the terrain in the dark about what Obama has in mind, and some have expressed impatience about the length of time the administration is taking to figure it out.

"There is definitely more of an attitude [within the administration] to get involved" in the wake of recent militant advances in Syria and Iraq and last week's execution of an American journalist, said one senior official from the region. But "no one has had a conversation with us as to what that means."

"When a superpower, the superpower, is reluctant in developing policy, it's not only about leadership, it's about having a coherent approach to crises," said another regional official.

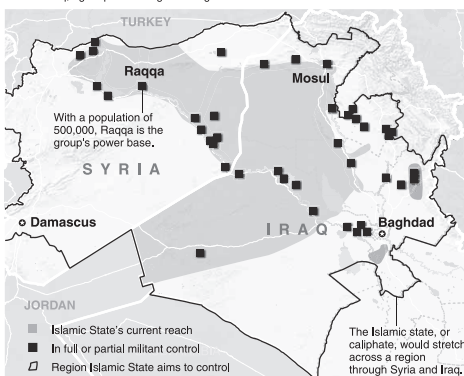
"The ball is in the U.S. court," said a third.

Senior officials from four Middle Eastern states spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid public indications of disquiet with Obama.

All expressed an eagerness to follow the U.S. lead in Syria, including, in some cases, possible participation in airstrikes against the Islamic State, should that be Obama's decision. All of their governments have repeatedly expressed concern over the past three years of Syria's civil war at what they've seen as administration reluctance to assert strong leadership in support of moderate rebels battling the forces of Syr-

The Islamic State advances on Syria and Iraq

By some estimates, the Islamic State group occupies about a third of Syria. The group has spread quickly this year, into most of the Sunni-dominated areas of northern and western Iraq, right up to the edges of Baghdad.



MILITARY STRENGTH AND RESOURCES



SOURCES: AP reporting; globalsecurity.org; Long War Journal; U.S. Department of Defense

ian President Bashar Assad.

Many in the region were dismayed last year when Obama ordered U.S. airstrikes against Assad's chemical weapons program, and then hesitated long enough for Congress to refuse to approve them.

Since then, the war has become a three-way battle among the rebels, Assad and Islamist forces who see an opportunity in the Syrian chaos to establish an Islamic caliphate across the region. The Islamic State group is now the strongest of those forces and this summer extended its reach across northern and eastern Syria and into neighboring Iraq.

Early this month, Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes and other assistance against the Sunni Muslim militants in Iraq. Limited to the protection of U.S. citizens and facilities, they are designed to give the administration time to assess a broader strategy and to give Iraq's Shiite-led government the opportunity to turn its Sunni constituents against Islamic State with less sectarian,

more inclusive policies.

Thus far, U.S. operations in Iraq have cost about \$550 million, according to Defense Department figures. Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters Friday that the average daily cost from June 16 to Aug. 26 was \$7.5 million.

The Obama administration began deploying additional U.S. troops to Iraq in June after the militant group known as the Islamic State launched a major offensive and took over significant chunks of the country. There are currently about 850 American military personnel in country, according to the DOD.

However, airstrikes against Islamic State fighters and military gear did not begin until Aug. 8, which means the daily price tag has increased in recent weeks.

"As our op tempo and as our activities have intensified ... so too has the cost," Kirby said.

Kirby said the cost of ongoing U.S. mili-

tary efforts in Iraq is being paid for out of Fiscal 2014 overseas contingency operations funds allocated by Congress well before the decision to intervene in Iraq was made.

Sunni governments in the region say they approve of U.S. actions in Iraq and will move to persuade their co-religionists there to firmly back the new government as soon as it demonstrates it is headed in the right direction.

But they now fear that the action in Iraq is not enough, and see an aggressively enforced U.S. strategy as the only way to overcome their own differences in the face of the larger Islamic threat, based in Syria, that could overwhelm them. "In Syria, you have many actors, many moving pieces. There is not a coherent U.S. policy" to bring them all in line, an Arab official said. Countries the United States considers counterterrorism partners are broadly divided into two camps, with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan on one side and Qatar and Turkey on the other. The division has led to mixed messages and often divergent actions in support of different rebel factions.

"We're not inventing the wheel anew here. We've all tried policies. Some succeeded, some failed. ... We're trying to get a coherent policy that not only says 'Egypt right, Qatar wrong,' or vice versa, 'but also tells those countries, okay, we need to agree on three, four or five points.'"

"It's not about who's right and who's wrong, it's about what we need to do."

But Obama insisted Thursday that he would not be rushed into the broader strategy.

The president spoke before a meeting with his top national security team Thursday that he said would be limited to the discussion of continuing operations in Iraq.

Next week, he said, he will consult NATO allies on larger plans for Syria, Iraq and the Islamic State at an alliance summit in Wales, Obama said. Immediately afterward, he is sending Secretary of State John Kerry to the region to meet with Middle Eastern leaders.

Obama, Kerry and military leaders have spoken repeatedly in recent weeks of the need for a coalition, in the context of a partnership strategy the president outlined more than a year ago to combat terrorist threats beyond al-Qaida, and potentially far more dangerous.

Once the strategy is determined, Obama said, "it's going to be important for Congress to know what that is, in part because it may cost some money."

He rejected criticism from some lawmakers for not seeking congressional approval for the limited Iraq operation. "As commander in chief, I have the authorities to engage in the acts that we are conducting currently," Obama said.

Stars and Stripes reporter John Harper contributed to this report.

Public support for overseas involvement jumps, survey finds

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Public support for a more active U.S. foreign policy has grown sharply since last year as Americans see the world becoming more dangerous.

Those findings, from a newly released Pew Research Center survey, provide an important

backdrop for President Barack Obama's decision-making regarding U.S. military action against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria and possible steps to counter Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The increased support for an active U.S. policy overseas could have a big effect on the race to

success Obama in 2016, especially among Republicans.

Nearly one-third of Americans now say that the U.S. does too little to address global problems. That's almost as many as say the U.S. is too deeply involved overseas.

A Pew poll in November found that those who wanted the United

States to do less outnumbered those who wanted a more active policy by 51 percent to 17 percent.

Two-thirds of Americans say the world has grown more dangerous in the past several years, the poll found.

Opinion has shifted toward activism across the political spec-

trum, but the change is most dramatic among conservative Republicans.

Among Republicans who say they identify with the tea party, 54 percent now say the U.S. does too little to help solve world problems, up from only 35 percent say the U.S. does too much.

MIDEAST



BILAL HUSSEIN/AP

US military aid arrives in Lebanon

A U.S. soldier walks past mortars Friday at the Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut, Lebanon. The United States delivered the first shipment of weapons to Lebanon to help bolster its military as it faces a growing threat from Islamic militants amid the fallout from neighboring Syria's civil war. The shipment included anti-tank artillery, mortars and rifles.

Islamic State subjected captive Westerners to waterboarding

By ADAM GOLDMAN
AND JULIE TATE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — At least four hostages held in Syria by the Islamic State, including an American journalist who was recently killed by the group, were waterboarded in the early part of their captivity, according to people familiar with the treatment of the kidnapped Westerners.

James Foley was among the four who were waterboarded several times by Islamic State militants who appeared to model the technique on the CIA's use of waterboarding to interrogate suspected terrorists after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The victims of waterboarding

are often strapped down on gurneys or benches while cold water is poured over a cloth covering their faces; they suffer the sensation of feeling they are drowning. "The wet cloth creates a barrier through which it is difficult — or in some cases not possible — to breathe," according to a May 2005 Justice Department memo on the CIA's use of the technique.

President Barack Obama has condemned waterboarding as torture.

"They knew exactly how it was done," said a person with direct knowledge of what happened to the hostages. The person, who would only discuss the hostages' experience on condition of anonymity, said the captives, includ-

ing Foley, were held in Raqqa, a city in the north-central region of Syria.

James Foley was beheaded by the Islamic State last week in apparent retaliation for U.S. airstrikes in Iraq where the militant group has seized large swaths of territory. The group, which also controls parts of Syria, has threatened to kill another American, journalist Steven Sotloff. He was seen at the end of a video showing Foley's killing that was released by the militant group. Two other Americans are also held by Islamic State.

A second person familiar with Foley's time in captivity confirmed Foley was tortured, including by waterboarding.

Britain raises terror threat level to severe

By DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain raised the country's terror threat level from substantial to severe Friday, meaning that a terrorist attack is considered highly likely.

Home Secretary Theresa May said the decision to raise the threat level was related to developments in Iraq and Syria, but that there was no information to suggest an attack was imminent. Some of the plots are likely to involve fighters who have traveled from Britain and Europe to take part in fighting in the Middle East.

"We face a real and serious threat in the U.K. from international terrorism," she said. "I

would urge the public to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police."

May said the decision by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Center is made on the basis of intelligence and is independent of government. "Severe" is the second-highest of five levels.

British police have appealed to the public to help identify aspiring terrorists after the killing of an American journalist focused attention on extremism in the U.K.

The involvement of a person of British nationality in James Foley's beheading underscored the need to identify those who might travel abroad to fight or are at risk of being radicalized.

UN says Syria refugees top 3M

By JOHN HEILPRIN
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The civil war in Syria has forced a record 3 million people out of the country as more than a million people fled in the past year, the U.N. refugee agency said Friday.

The tragic milestone means that about one of every eight Syrians has fled across the border, and 6.5 million others have been displaced within Syria since the conflict began in March 2011, the Geneva-based agency said. More than half of all those uprooted are children, it said.

"The Syria crisis has become the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era, yet the world is failing to meet the needs of refugees and the countries hosting them," said U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres.

Syria had a prewar population of 23 million.

The recent surge in fighting appears to be worsening the already desperate situation for Syrian refugees, the agency said, as

the extremist Islamic State group expands its control of broad areas straddling the Syria-Iraq border and terrorizes rivals and civilians in both countries.

According to the agency, many of the new arrivals in Jordan come from the northern province of Aleppo and the northeastern region of Raqqa, a stronghold of the group. An independent U.N. commission says the group is systematically carrying out widespread bombings, beatings and mass killings that amount to crimes against humanity in both areas.

The commission investigating potential war crimes in Syria said on Wednesday that the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad likely used chlorine gas to attack civilians, who are bearing the brunt of a civil war that has killed more than 190,000 people and destabilized the region.

The massive numbers of Syrians fleeing the civil war has stretched the resources of neighboring countries and raised fears of violence spreading in the region.

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UKRAINE

Separatists: Putin urges rebels to release Ukrainian soldiers

FROM FRONT PAGE

Although such claims of using only confiscated Ukrainian equipment are common, top rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko himself has said Russia was supplying equipment and fighters. And Russia's consistent rejection of the allegations is hotly dismissed by the West.

A spokesman for the rebels in Novozovsk, who identified himself only as Alexander, said their plan was to try to eventually push westward to the major port city of Mariupol, about 20 miles away.

There was no sign of imminent movement on Friday, but Alexander's statement underlined fears that the rebels' eventual aim is to establish a land bridge between Russia and the Russia-annexed Crimea peninsula further to the west.

The rebels also showed four Ukrainian soldiers and a wounded fighter from the pro-government Azov Battalion who were being held captive.

The wounded fighter, Maxim, said he was taken when his vehicle was ambushed and two comrades killed. "Now I am here, and there are negotiations taking place for me to be exchanged," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called on pro-Russian separatists to release Ukrainian soldiers who have been surrounded by the rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Putin's statement came several hours after Ukraine accused Russia of entering its territory with tanks, artillery and troops, and Western powers accused Moscow of lying about its role and dangerously escalating the conflict.

"I'm calling on insurgents to open a humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian troops who were surrounded in order to avoid senseless deaths," Putin said in the statement published on the Kremlin's website in the early hours on Friday.

Putin didn't address the claims about Russia's military presence in Ukraine. Instead, he lauded the pro-Russian separatists for



SECRET GENTS/AP

A local resident passes by a cannon of a pro-Russian tank in Novozovsk, eastern Ukraine, on Friday.

"undermining Kiev's military operation which threatened lives of the residents of Donbass and has already led to a colossal death toll among civilians."

Putin's statement could be referring to Ukrainian troops who have been trapped outside the strategic town of Ilovaysk, east of Donetsk, for nearly a week now. Protesters rallied outside the Ukrainian General Staff on Thursday, demanding reinforcements and heavy weaponry for the troops outside Ilovaysk, most of whom are volunteers. Zakharchenko, the rebel leader, said the Ukrainian troops would have to lay down their arms before they were allowed to go.

"With all our respect to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, the president of a country which gives us moral support, we are ready to open humanitarian corridors to the Ukrainian troops who were surrounded with the condition that they surrender heavy weaponry and ammunition so that this weaponry and ammunition will

"I'm calling on insurgents to open a humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian troops who were surrounded in order to avoid senseless deaths."

Vladimir Putin
president of Russia

not be used against us in future," he said on Russia's state Rossiya 24 television.

A spokesman for Ukraine's national security council, Col. Andriy Lysenko, rejected that condition. "Ukraine is not ready to surrender arms and kneel in front of the aggressor," he told reporters.

The U.N. human rights office on Friday accused both sides of deliberately targeting civilians.

Pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine have carried out murders, torture and abductions along with other serious human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, according to the

mission's field work between July 16 and Aug. 17. The report also said Ukraine's military is guilty of human rights violations such as arbitrary detentions, disappearances and torture.

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic, who visited Kiev on Friday, said the death toll had reached nearly 2,600 by Aug. 27 and described the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine as "alarming." Simonovic condemned rebels for preventing people from leaving cities caught up in the fighting. He also pointed to reports of violations by volunteer battalions under

government control.

Putin compared Ukrainian troops firing at civilians and surrounding cities in eastern Ukraine to the Nazi siege of Leningrad. He said residents of Ukraine's east were "suppressed with force" because they disagreed with what he called a coup in Kiev in February.

The Leningrad Siege comparison is a powerful one for Russians and clearly aimed at portraying the Ukraine conflict in stark and tendentious good-vs.-evil terms. The 872-day siege, in which at least 670,000 civilians died, is a major touchstone for Russia's exalted sense of heroism amid suffering.

European Union foreign ministers met in Milan Friday to weigh the 28-nation bloc's stance amid increasing calls to beef up economic sanctions against Russia. Their discussion was expected to prepare possible further steps to be announced at a summit of the bloc's leaders Saturday in Brussels.

NATO rejects Russia's 'hollow denials' of intervention

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO's top official accused Russia Friday of following a "dangerous pattern" of intervention in Ukraine intended to destabilize that country.

NATO convened an emergency meeting a day after Ukrainian and NATO officials said Russian troops and equipment had crossed into Ukraine.

"Despite Moscow's hollow denials, it is now clear that Russian troops and equipment have illegally crossed the border into eastern and southeastern Ukraine," NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said at his headquarters in Brussels. "This is not an isolated action but part of a dangerous pattern over many months to destabilize Ukraine as a sovereign nation."

On Thursday, NATO's Supreme

Headquarters Allied Powers Europe released a series of satellite images showing the apparent movement of Russian forces into Ukraine.

"This is a blatant violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Anders Fogh Rasmussen
NATO secretary-general

in direct military operations inside Ukraine," Rasmussen said. "Russia has fired on Ukraine from both Russian territory and

within Ukraine itself."

Russia has denied such activity.

Moscow also continues to supply pro-Russian separatists with tanks, armored vehicles, artillery and rocket launchers while it maintains a combat-ready force just across the border in Russia, Rasmussen said.

"This is a blatant violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It defies all diplomatic efforts for a peaceful solution," he said.

The meeting in Brussels was called at the request of Ukraine, a non-NATO member.

At NATO's 2008 summit in Bucharest, Romania, Ukraine and the alliance had agreed that the country would one day be a part of NATO if certain reforms were made. But in subsequent years, Kiev elected not to pursue NATO membership. Rasmussen said

the door to NATO remains open; whether Ukraine could achieve membership is another matter.

On Friday, Kiev proposed ending Ukraine's nonaligned status and renewing its pursuit of NATO membership. Under the leadership of ousted President Viktor Yanukovich, the country had rejected NATO membership.

As a rule, countries engaged in territorial disputes are generally unable to achieve membership in the 28-member alliance. Germany and other allies are leery of adding more countries along Russia's border, which is one reason Georgia remains out of the alliance despite years of attempting to join.

But Rasmussen said the question is for Ukraine to decide.

"We fully respect Ukraine's decisions as regards Ukraine's security policy and alliance af-

filations," he said. "I'm not going to interfere with political discussions in Ukraine."

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko will attend NATO's summit in Wales next week.

The alliance is expected to beef up its support for Ukraine in areas such as training and logistics. However, NATO has no plans for direct military involvement in Ukraine.

Western political leaders, including President Barack Obama, have emphasized there is no military solution to the crisis.

Instead, both the U.S. and the European Union have opted for scaled sanctions. European Union foreign ministers met Friday in Italy to discuss the bloc's response to the situation in Ukraine ahead of an EU summit Saturday in Brussels.

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NATION



A seized giant African snail is displayed next to a ruler.

Federal agency seizes more than 1,200 illegal giant snails

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The giant African snail damages buildings, destroys crops and can cause meningitis in humans. But some people still want to collect, and even eat, the slimy invaders.

The Agriculture Department is trying to stop them. Since June, department authorities have seized more than 1,200 live specimens of the large snails, also known as giant African land snails, all of them traced back to one person in Georgia, who was selling them illegally.

The USDA discovered the snails through a tip from social media at the end of June. From that tip, the department seized more than 200 snails from a per-

son on Long Island, N.Y., who identified the seller in Georgia. The department then interviewed the seller and seized almost 1,000 more snails in Georgia, plus one each in Indiana, Pennsylvania and New York.

Agriculture officials said the investigation was ongoing and they would not identify any of the individuals.

It's important to capture the snails without delay, authorities said, because they multiply quickly, producing 1,200 or more offspring per year. And the snails, which can grow larger than the size of a fist, have no natural predators in the United States. People are their only threat.

Florida authorities know this all too well. Agriculture officials

there are in their third year of trying to eradicate the snails. They were discovered in Miami in September 2011, and they've been found on houses, where they eat plaster and stucco to gain calcium for their shells, and in residential gardens, where they tear through plants.

Mark Fagan, a spokesman for the Florida Department of Agriculture, said the agency so far has found 141,000 snails in 26 areas of Miami-Dade County. Luckily, he said, they have not yet progressed into any of the state's rich agricultural areas. The snails eat 500 types of plants, including most row crops and citrus, so keeping them away is an important investment for the state's \$100 billion-per-year farm industry.

In first, memorial will be open on night of Sept. 11

By JENNIFER PELTZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Sept. 11 memorial plaza will be open on the night of the attacks' anniversary this year, marking the first time the general public will be able to visit ground zero on the commemoration date.

The plaza will be closed to the public during the remembrance ceremony and much of the rest of the day, but it will open from 6 p.m. to midnight for those who want to pay respects and to view one of the most evocative observances — the twin beams called the Tribute in Light — from an especially "meaningful vantage point," memorial President Joe Daniels said in an email Thursday to victims' families.

A symbolic shift for a site that was inaccessible to the public for years after the attacks, the plan reflects its increasing openness as more gets rebuilt.

The memorial plaza, with its massive reflecting pools etched with the names of the dead, opened in 2011. But to control crowds amid construction elsewhere on the World Trade Center property, tickets and security screening were required until this spring. Since the tick-

et, underground memorial museum opened in May, open access has been allowed during days and evenings at the plaza, which joins the streetscape of lower Manhattan even as it serves as a place of remembrance protected by police and security guards. Museum officials said that security measures would be in place for the public hours on Sept. 11 but that they couldn't disclose details.

The night hours on Sept. 11 will provide visitors a solemn setting for looking at the Tribute in Light, which first appeared on March 11, 2002, to mark the six months that had passed since the attacks.

It shines from a roof near the trade center, traditionally from sunset to dawn. Formed from 88 powerful bulbs positioned into two squares that echo the fallen Twin Towers, the light memorial reaches four miles skyward.

The museum will be closed to the public throughout the day.

The private anniversary ceremony will be held on the plaza in the morning, a tribute that has centered on reading of the names of the nearly 3,000 people killed in New York, at the Pentagon and near Shanksville, Pa., in the 2001 attacks, as well as recognizing the six people killed in the 1993 trade center bombing.

Ebola in mind, colleges screen students

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — College students from West Africa may be subject to extra health checks when they arrive to study in the United States as administrators try to insulate campuses from the worst Ebola outbreak in history.

With the virus continuing to kill in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, the expected arrival of thousands of students from those countries has U.S. authorities on alert but cautioning against alarm.

"I can see why there would be concern; there's no vaccine for it," said Fatima Nor, 18, a freshman at the University at Buffalo, where about 25 students from Nigeria are enrolled for fall. But

she said knowing that the virus is transmitted strictly through direct contact with bodily fluids of sick people, and not by sitting next to someone in class, should be enough to calm nerves.

"As long as everyone keeps their personal space, it should be OK," said Nor, of Buffalo.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued no specific recommendations for colleges, some state health departments, including in South Carolina and North Dakota, have spelled out for administrators what symptoms to look for and how to react.

Elsewhere, universities are drafting their own precautionary plans against the often-fatal hemorrhagic fever, which causes

weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, internal bleeding and sometimes bleeding from the nose and ears.

The American College Health Association recommends its members update emergency plans, find out where patients have traveled and use isolation exam rooms when available. Several colleges are checking the temperatures of students arriving from affected countries and continuing to monitor for fever until any risk of contagion has passed.

"I don't see this as a huge threat on college campuses," said Dr. Susan Even, student health director at the University of Missouri-Columbia and a member of the ACHA, "but it makes sense when you're communicating with students ... to ask a question or two."



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NATION

High Asia demand fuels US ginseng poaching

By MITCH WEISS
The Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — A rising number of people are traipsing through U.S. national forests, state parks and even private property to hunt ginseng, threatening the survival of a plant in high demand in Asia.

Authorities are trying to crack down, sentencing one poacher to more than five months in prison this week.

With prices skyrocketing, poachers often camp out deep in hardwood forests of western North Carolina, digging up the slow-growing plant for its two- and three-prong roots, said Wes Mullins, a National Park Service ranger. They can get up to \$200 for fresh roots. Dried roots can go for more than \$900 because of the strong demand, mostly from eastern Asian markets.

"We only catch a small fraction of what's going on here," Mullins said. "Most of them are woodsmen and they know the mountains better than we do."

"We just have to keep trying. Otherwise, the plant will go extinct," he added.

Digging ginseng — or sang, as some still call it — has been a tradition in the U.S. Appalachian region for generations. And it's not illegal for people to harvest ginseng on their own property.

The Chinese have used ginseng for thousands of years as everything from an aphrodisiac to an elixir of longevity. But Asian ginseng has become virtually extinct due in part to overharvesting.

Some large-scale farms in China, the United States and other countries grow ginseng, said Jim Hamilton, the Watauga County extension director.

But wild American ginseng is the most desired and fetches the most money because of its potency. And it only grows in selected cool climates, such as the Appalachian Mountains. It flourishes in the Great Smoky Mountains National



Park, which straddles the border of North Carolina and Tennessee.

On June 28, Mullins arrested ginseng poacher Billy Joe Hurley, a broke and down-on-his-luck man who had once more turned the only way he knows to make a living.

After Hurley's latest in a long string of arrests, federal prosecutors had enough. They told a U.S. magistrate Thursday that poaching by Hurley and others in the national forests in western North Carolina has dramatically reduced the numbers of wild ginseng.

Prosecutor David Thorne said they needed to send a message: Illegal ginseng harvesting won't be tolerated.

Hurley, 46, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 5½ months in jail — the fifth time in a decade that Hurley has been sentenced

for illegal possession or harvesting of ginseng. He could have received up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

But Magistrate Dennis Howell said he didn't fine Hurley because he knew he couldn't pay it.

Each September, the U.S. Forest Service sets a legal harvesting period for the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests, issuing permits that limit how much can be gathered.

This year, the agency has issued just 136 permits through a lottery system. Each permit holder can gather up to 3 pounds. But the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is off-limits for harvesting, and that's where wildlife officials have been working to save ginseng, one plant at a time.

Jim Corbin, a plant protection specialist with the North Carolina



Above: Jim Corbin, foreground left, leads volunteers in a search for wild ginseng plants in a forest near Bryson City, N.C. Left: A wild ginseng plant found growing in the forest.

PHOTOS BY MITCH WEISS/AP

Department of Agriculture, has developed a way to track ginseng. Each August, he and a group of volunteers spend a week trudging up steep hillsides in the park. When they find a ginseng plant, they push aside the dirt and sprinkle yellow powdered dye to mark

the roots.

Ginseng dealers are alerted not to buy plants with dyed roots.

Corbin said his team usually marks more than 2,000 plants during the week. But with ginseng prices fetching so much money, he said, it's hard to stop poachers.

Lack of states' data means background checks for guns fall short

By SARAH FERRIS
News21

While the National Instant Criminal Background Check System remains the only source of compromise between the nation's divided gun camps, the costly federal program is failing to keep guns away from the dangerously mentally ill.

The White House describes the background check system, known as NICS, as its "most important tool" for stopping gun crime. But more than a decade of data from the FBI and public health research reveals broad failings of the system, which has cost at least \$650 million to maintain, a News21 investigation found.

Nearly all sides of the gun debate have devoted resources to strengthening the background check system, confronting tech-

nology gaps, coordination failures and privacy concerns.

Thirty states have passed laws mandating mental health reporting to NICS, four of which were added in the past six months. Yet no organization has been able to address the larger concern that NICS is poorly designed to identify those in society most likely to be violent.

"It's really casting a very wide net to try to find a few people, which is largely an impossible task," said Michael Norko, head of forensics at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. "It's not really a good public health measure. We really need to find a better way of doing this."

Federally licensed gun dealers are required to conduct a background check, either online or by phone, before each firearms sale.

Within about 30 seconds, the system searches for criminal convictions and in 38 states a history of severe mental illness as judged by a court.

But states are not required under federal law to submit mental health records to NICS. There are no consequences if states choose not to send records, resulting in major information gaps.

Only about 30 percent of the estimated 4.4 million mental health records in the United States over the past two decades can be found

in NICS, according to research compiled in 2012 by the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics and the National Center for State Courts.

Out of all gun purchases blocked by the FBI over the past 16 years, fewer than 2 percent were because of mental health status. That amounts to 14,613 blocked sales since 1998.

The files are costly to locate and store, according to interviews with officials from 10 states. There were 2,083 agencies responsible for providing information for background checks across the country in 2010, including courts, state health departments and psychiatric hospitals, according to the most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics report.

The system is also vastly overinclusive, six public health experts said in interviews.

People's names are kept in the database based on a decades-old definition of "mentally defective," which relies on court decisions rather than doctors' orders. Under federal law, individuals with histories of violent psychotic episodes can buy guns as long as they never set foot in a courtroom.

Every one of the country's mass shooters since January 2009 could have slipped through NICS, according to a July study by the gun control organization Everytown for Gun Safety.

In 12 out of the 110 incidents identified by Everytown, the shooters had demonstrated some evidence of a mental illness.

Research over the past decade shows that it's nearly impossible to predict which individuals will commit gun violence, let alone find them through NICS.

‘We really need to find a better way of doing this.’

Michael Norko

Connecticut
Department of
Mental Health and
Addiction Services

NATION

Back from the brink?

Manatees might lose their status as endangered species

By JENNIFER KAY
The Associated Press

MIAMI — As they do whenever they visit Florida, Greg Groff and his young daughter stopped by the manatee pool at Miami Seaquarium, where the speed-bump-shaped marine mammals placidly swim in circles.

They noted the pink scars and disfigured tail on one manatee, damage from a boat propeller that left it unable to survive in the wild.

Florida's manatees need even more stringent protections than their listing on the federal endangered species list, Groff said, adding that boaters should go elsewhere if they don't like speed limits in waters where manatees swim.

"There's plenty of places they can go faster," the Chicago man said. "They can go out in the middle of the ocean if they want to go much, much, much quicker, and you won't have to worry about them running the manatees over."

Groff's comments are representative of the environmentalist and general public side of an on-going fight with a group of boaters, businesses and conservatives over whether the manatee should retain its 1967 federal listing as an endangered species, the most protective classification.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing whether the manatee should be reclassified as a "threatened" species, which would allow some flexibility for federal officials as the species recovers while maintaining most of the protections afforded to animals listed as endangered.

As part of the lengthy review process, the agency is seeking public comment on its finding that a petition to reclassify the manatee has merit. The deadline is Tuesday. A decision on whether a change is warranted won't be made until the agency completes its review, which could take a year.

Manatees, also known as sea cows, are vegetarian giants that average nearly 10 feet long and 2,200 pounds and live near the shore and in coastal waterways around much of Florida. The animal's biggest threats are boats, cold water, toxic algae blooms and fishing debris like discarded lines and ropes.

"If we come to the end of this and decide reclassification is warranted, it's good news because it means the manatee is recovering and no longer on the brink of extinction."



PHOTOS BY ALAN DIAZ/AP

Caretaker Joelle Palmer, foreground, and intern Ally Levy feed the manatees at the Miami Seaquarium in Key Biscayne, Fla.

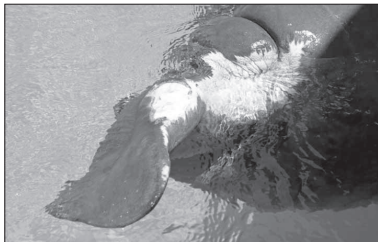
extinction," agency spokesman Chuck Underwood said.

Critics of the manatee's current endangered listing say manatees are important to the state's tourism industry and environment, so everyone wants them to thrive, but the species has recovered sufficiently over the last 47 years to be reclassified. Florida's manatee population has grown from several hundred in 1967 to over 4,800 in this year. Under current regulations, boaters must avoid manatee areas or obey tight speed limits and fishermen can't use some equipment.

Save Crystal River Inc. and the conservative Pacific Legal Foundation petitioned the government in 2012 to reclassify the manatee, citing a 2007 federal review that recommended listing the species as threatened since the population is recovering. They say if the federal government followed its own rules, the reclassification should be automatic.

"The truth is the manatee is protected the same as threatened as endangered, but they no longer can use the species to take over sovereign lands and sovereign waters with arbitrary rules," said Steve Lamb, vice president of Save Crystal River, a group that represents about 100 members that include recreational boaters, tour operators, dive shops and hotels. The river, about 80 miles north of Tampa on Florida's Gulf Coast, is warmed by natural springs and is a favorite winter congregating spot for manatees.

According to the wildlife service, officials began working on the reclassification proposal in



A boat propeller disfigured the tail of a manatee named Phoenix.

2013, but those efforts were suspended amid funding constraints, the U.S. government shutdown and concerns over recent spikes in manatee deaths, particularly during cold snaps. A record 829 manatees died last year, breaking the 2010 record of 766, according to state records.

The most worrisome deaths last year were not collisions with boats. A record 276 manatee deaths were caused by a toxic red tide bloom in the Gulf of Mexico. There were also the unexplained deaths of more than 100 manatees on Florida's east coast, where pollution and algae blooms have plagued a vital lagoon ecosystem.

Save the Manatees Club Executive Director Pat Rose said that while the species has certainly rebounded, the jump in deaths, particularly during cold snaps, means

more work is needed before they lose endangered status.

"The most compelling reason not to down-list them is the status of their ecosystems," Rose said. "If you maintain good quality habitat, you can overcome catastrophic mortality events. If you are dealing with both catastrophic mortality events and unrelenting compromises to their aquatic ecosystems at the same time, that's when you need to be acting very conservatively."

But Lamb said the government is bowing to political pressure and emotion, highlighting conservation efforts at the expense of the law and business.

"Does anyone ever want to talk about how last year 1,000 manatees were born? Heck, no. All they want to talk about is how many died," Lamb said.

The vast majority of comments submitted to the wildlife service pleaded with officials to continue listing the manatee as endangered. Florida residents cite the manatees they've seen with scars from run-ins with boats or fishing debris, while out-of-state commentators describe the thrill of spotting the unique marine mammals in the water.

Nail polish that detects drugs stirs media buzz

By JAY PRICE

The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)

RALEIGH, N.C. — Four North Carolina State University students have dreamed up a striking way to detect date rape drugs that's getting some major media buzz.

It's also generating a backlash from people who say it doesn't get at the root causes of rape.

The idea: nail polish formulated to change color if you dip your finger in a drink spiked with one of the incapacitating drugs, such as GHB, Rohypnol or Xanax.

This simple approach fired the imaginations of journalists around the world this week, just as the college fall semester was getting underway.

It also has caught the eye of at least one local investor, who has reportedly pumped \$100,000 into the project. It won \$11,250 this past spring in the university's Lulu eGames, a contest sponsored by Lulu.com and the university's Entrepreneurship Initiative that's aimed at encouraging students to develop solutions to real-world challenges.

The startup is called Undercover Colors, and its slogan is, "The first fashion company empowering women to prevent sexual assault."

The idea isn't entirely new. There were already startups promoting date rape detectors built into drinking straws, coasters, drinking glasses, lip gloss and a small device you dip into your drink. Another company also claimed to be developing a similar nail polish, called Dip Tip, this spring.

Few seem to have actually reached the market, but interest in them has been high, and all generated media splashes.

And now it's Undercover Colors' turn. Stories on the fledgling company have appeared this week in the Daily Mail and The Guardian in Great Britain, Huffington Post, The Washington Post, Reddit.com, Salon.com, USA Today and Buzz Feed, among others.

The students who started the company, all of them men in the materials science and engineering department, are declining interviews.

"At this point, we are early in the development of our product and are not taking interviews or doing stories," wrote Stephen Gray, a spokesman for the group, in an emailed statement.

One question about the nail polish is precisely how big a problem it seeks to solve.

Susan R.B. Weiss, associate director for scientific affairs for the National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health, said data on the subject is sparse but that the use of date rape drugs is probably not common. Alcohol is by far the drug most likely to be involved in rape, Weiss said.

MIDEAST

In Kabul...

GUNS FOR FUN?



A man aims his gas-powered gun at his opponents while playing paintball in Kabul, Afghanistan.

PHOTOS BY RAHMAT GUL/AP

With a splat, paintball fires into Afghanistan

By REBECCA SANTANA
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The hidden gunman, dressed in long green coveralls and a SWAT-team-style vest and helmet, looks ominous as he takes aim and fires off a short burst.

But this isn't a Taliban attack in the heart of Afghanistan's capital — it's just a friendly game of paintball.

The arrival of recreational paintball to Afghanistan may seem peculiar to outsiders, especially in a country that's known decades of war, faces constant bombings and attacks by Taliban insurgents and is preparing its own security forces for the withdrawal of most foreign troops by the end of the year.

However, it shows both the rise of a nascent upper and middle class looking for a diversion with the time to spare, as well as the way American culture has seeped into the country since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion to topple the Taliban.

"These people deserve to have more fun," said Abbas Rizaiy, the owner of the "Eagle" paintball club in central Kabul.

Rizaiy brought the game to Afghanistan just a few weeks ago. He's a longtime fan of the first-person shooter video game "Call of Duty" and stepped up to the next level by playing paintball in neighboring Iran



A group of men put on their uniforms before paintball in Kabul, Afghanistan.

where he was born.

He moved to Afghanistan 10 years ago and eventually decided to open the club this year in Kabul, a city more associated with real bullets than ones that splatter paint.

For those who have never suffered a welt from the game, paintball involves participants geared up in helmets, goggles and protective clothing firing at each other using gas-powered guns that shoot paint pellets. The games can be complicated affairs that last for hours or as simple as a capture-the-flag contest that lasts only a few minutes.

Naqibullah Jafari, a marketing officer in Kabul who came with his friends one day,

acknowledged that they didn't have much of a strategy when he took to the field — other than to shoot each other.

"It is my first time that I came here, and I don't have any special tactics in this game," he said, with his goggles pushed up to his forehead and his weapon at his side.

Rizaiy said he hasn't had many issues with the neighbors, though he turned down the speed at which the weapons fire to reduce the noise. Instead, he said the biggest challenge was to get the paintball guns as the ones he imported from India got stuck for six months in Afghanistan's bureaucracy-laden customs department.

Paintball is one of a small number of leisure activities that have sprung up in



This paintballer's goggles are sprayed with paint after being hit by a "bullet."

Kabul since the fall of the Taliban. A bowling alley called "The Strikers" opened up a few years ago and a number of pools around the city provide a place for residents to splash around in the summer months. There's also a 9-hole golf course a short drive outside of Kabul.

But most of these activities are geared toward the city's small, upper- and middle-class elite who can afford the admission. And customers are overwhelming male because of Afghanistan's conservative society, which deems it generally not acceptable for women to go to activities involving men who aren't relatives.

Rizaiy said he'd like female customers, but said women don't want to be stared at while wearing all the warrior gear.

Meanwhile, Rizaiy's customers seem to appreciate the irony of firing toy guns in a country flooded with the real thing.

"We can use guns for positive things and also for negative things," customer Ali Noori said. "These guns are for entertainment."

WORLD

Senegal confirms its first case of Ebola

The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal—A man infected with Ebola traveled to Senegal, bringing the disease to that country for the first time in an outbreak that has killed four other West African nations and more than 1,500 people, the Ministry of Health said Friday.

The infected person, a university student from Guinea, sought treatment at a hospital in Senegal's capital, Dakar, on Tuesday but gave no indication he might

have Ebola, Health Minister Awa Marie Coll Seck told reporters. The next day, an epidemiological surveillance team in Guinea alerted Senegalese authorities that they had lost track of a person who had had contact with sick people. The team said that the person disappeared three weeks ago and may have come to Senegal.

The student was tracked to the hospital in Dakar that same day and was immediately quaran-

tined, Seck said.

A test has confirmed that he has Ebola, and the World Health Organization has been alerted.

The Ebola outbreak ravaging West Africa began last year in Guinea. Since then, the disease has spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. More than 3,000 people have contracted the disease, which spread by bodily fluids and for which there is no licensed treatment or vaccine. A separate Ebola outbreak

was reported this week in Congo, where 13 people have died from the disease.

The arrival of the dreaded disease in Senegal, which is a tourist destination and whose capital is a major transportation hub for the region, underscores that the outbreak remains out of control, despite efforts by the World Health Organization, Doctors Without Borders and other organizations.

WHO on Friday said the past week has seen the highest in-

crease of cases — more than 500 — since the outbreak began.

"There are serious problems with case management and infection prevention and control," a detailed report from WHO said on Friday. "The situation is worsening in Liberia and Sierra Leone."

Because there is no known cure for Ebola, doctors can only isolate the sick and try to help their immune systems fight off the disease.

Mexico efforts stem flow of migrants to US

By MARK STEVENSON

The Associated Press

CHAHUITES, Mexico—Mexico's largest crackdown in decades on illegal migration has decreased the flow of Central Americans trying to reach the United States, and has dramatically cut the number of child migrants and families, according to officials and eyewitness accounts along the perilous route.

Convoys of Mexican federal police and immigration service employees in southern Mexico have begun scouring the tracks of the infamous freight train known as "La Bestia," or The Beast, hauling migrants from the rail cars and sending them to deportation centers. They have also set up moving roadblocks, checking the documents of passengers on interstate buses.

Associated Press journalists who followed the train one night this week as it left the southern state of Chiapas and entered neighboring Oaxaca noticed the drop-off, with just a few dozen mostly adult males perched atop the rumbling cars instead of the hundreds of men, women and children who were there not long ago. The men said they were the only ones able to evade capture. There were only two women and no children on the train.

"They took almost everyone" said Jorge Ruiz Williams, 20, a Honduran migrant who avoided detention and was seated atop La Bestia on Tuesday night. "We escaped because we're young and agile."

When the authorities come, the migrants who once circulated openly in shelters and boarded the cars as they were being attacked to the locomotive are forced to hide in the woods, where criminals lurk.

Some of the Central American men say that instead of trying to cross into the United States, they'll now stay and look for work in Mexico. Many families have apparently decided not to attempt the journey through Mexico at all since news of the raids and checkpoints — combined with stepped-up efforts in the U.S. and among Central American governments — reached their communities, said Carlos Solis, the manager of a shelter in Arriaga. He said the



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

A Central American migrant jumps onto a northbound freight train as it pulls out of the station in Arriaga, Mexico, late Thursday. Less than two hours later, the train was raided by federal police and about dozen migrants were taken into custody for deportation.

city, once bustling with migrants waiting to board the train, emptied out almost overnight.

"The word spreads, one person tells another, and it goes down the line," Solis said.

"They're also going after the coyotes, so it is increasing the cost of the trip and making them move through less visible areas," he said, referring to the smugglers paid to get migrants through to the U.S. border.

American and Mexican officials say they are noticing the same drop-off all along the route. The roundups follow U.S. requests for help from Mexico, as well as Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

On Aug. 7, the Department of Homeland Security released data showing the number of unaccompanied children and children traveling with parents arrested along the Southwest border of the United States in July was roughly 13,000, half what it had been in June. DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson said the trend appeared to be continuing during the first week of August, and President Barack

Obama said Thursday that numbers for the whole month will show a further decline.

"We're seeing a significant downward trend in terms of these unaccompanied children," Obama said in a news conference.

It is a far cry from the wave of migration that pressed toward the U.S. earlier this year, spurred on by a surge in violence in several Central American countries and news that women and children who reached the United States were being let go inside the country with orders to return for immigration hearings because family shelter space had filled up.

From October to July, about 63,000 unaccompanied children were detained after entering the U.S. illegally, double the number from the same period a year earlier. Another 63,000 families — mothers or fathers with young children — were picked up during that period.

There were no Central American children in the government shelter in Reynosa, across the border from McAllen, Texas, coordinator Jose Guadalupe Vil-

legas Garcia said Thursday. During the surge, at any one time, the shelter housed about 15 Central American children who had been apprehended or rescued by Central American authorities before crossing the Rio Grande. Officials said the children are being caught long before they get to the border.

"There are very few foreigners," said Carlos Jimenez, a spokesman with the Mexican family services agency in Reynosa. "We received three or four children" in August.

How long Mexico can or will sustain such a massive operation is unclear. Sealing off the notoriously porous border with Guatemala is neither physically possible nor politically popular, and strict enforcement further inland is already drawing criticism because it at once mirrors the deadly cat-and-mouse game that U.S. border patrol agents have long played with Mexican migrants farther north.

But for now, the effort shows no sign of abating.

Israel IDs body as missing US student

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM—Israeli forensic investigators on Friday identified a recently found body as that of a U.S. religious student who disappeared while hiking in Jerusalem last week, Israeli police said.

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the body was confirmed early on Friday morning to be that of seminary student Aharon Sofer.

"There is no suspicion of foul play," said Samri, meaning Sofer's death was not a militant attack or a criminal attack. She had no further details on how he died.

The body was found on Thursday night in the same area where Sofer disappeared last week. Sofer, 23, of Lakewood, N.J., had been hiking with a friend in a hilly, forested area on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

He was an ultra-Orthodox student at a yeshiva, a Jewish religious school, named for its founder, Rabbi Yitzchak Kaplan.

Sofer's parents had flown to Israel to assist with the search in the days after their son disappeared.

Iceland: Small eruption near Bardarbunga

REYKJAVIK, Iceland—Icelandic authorities briefly raised the aviation warning code to red Friday after a small fissure eruption near Bardarbunga volcano, but no volcanic ash has been detected by the radar system.

The eruption took place in the Holuhraun lava field, 3 miles north of Dyngjuekull glacier, Iceland's Meteorological Office said. The event was described as being not highly explosive — and thus not producing much of the fine ash that can affect aircraft engines.

The airspace is closed three nautical miles around the eruption area up to 5,000 feet — meaning it does not affect commercial flights flying over Iceland.

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

Islamic State is a Saudi conundrum

BY DAVID IGNATIUS

With Iraq and Syria ablaze, the oil-rich kingdom of Saudi Arabia seems almost an afterthought. But Riyadh will be a crucial, if quiet, ally as the U.S. seeks to mobilize Sunni Muslims against the terrorist Islamic State.

The kingdom's many critics argue that Saudi Arabia itself helped spread the toxic virus by bankrolling Islamist rebels and their extremist Salafist Muslim ideology. As if to insulate itself from such criticism, the kingdom recently donated \$100 million to a new U.N. counterterrorism center, and its senior religious leader, the grand mufti, declared the Islamic State and its al-Qaida forbear "enemy No. 1 of Islam."

Complicating Saudi Arabia's pivotal role in containing regional instability is the fact that generational change is slowly coming in the kingdom, too. The stakes for the U.S. in this leadership transition are large, and the outcome is hard to predict.

King Abdullah remains in power, a generally popular and respected monarch. But at 90, his energy and attention span are limited. Tensions have surfaced at several Saudi ministries over the last year, suggesting a jockeying for power.

For a generation, Americans and Saudis have worried that the kingdom was a potential tinderbox, with Muslim and secular extremists vying to undermine the conservative monarchy. If anything, the kingdom seems slightly more stable now than a decade ago — but Sunni and Shiite extremists, otherwise deadly adversaries, share a common dream of toppling the House of Saud.

The inner workings of the royal family remain all but impervious to outsiders. The senior prince are slow-moving, self-protective and resistant to foreign counsel — traits that invite speculation about

Sunni and Shiite extremists, otherwise deadly adversaries, share a dream of toppling the House of Saud.

what's happening behind the palace walls. But whatever their internal disagreements, the sons and grandsons of King Abdul Aziz, the kingdom's modern founder, have been able to maintain the family consensus necessary to preserve their rule.

U.S. and Arab experts describe a kingdom that is worried about three dangers: the rise of Iran and its Shiite Muslim allies; the resurgence of Sunni extremism embodied by the Islamic State; and the reliability of the United States, the kingdom's protector, which is seen by many Saudis as a superpower in retreat.

The unsettled situation is illustrated by the mercurial Prince Bandar bin Sulthan. He was ousted as intelligence chief last April, then rehabilitated this summer with the honorific title of chairman of the national security council. The outcome is probably a net gain for Saudi stability: Khaled bin Bandar bin Abdul Aziz, the new chief of the spy service, is seen as a more reliable and professional operator; he works well with Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the interior minister who is trusted by the U.S.

The new spy chief and the interior minister, accompanied by Bandar and Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, traveled to Qatar this week, presenting a common front to a regional rival that has often been Saudi Arabia and U.S. policy.

One question mark has been Crown Prince Salman, 78, the defense minister, who is reportedly in poor health. Specu-

lation about succession was fueled by the appointment of Prince Muqrin as deputy crown prince last March. Meanwhile, Salman has struggled to run the defense ministry. Since assuming that post in November 2011, he has had four deputies, including two sons of his predecessor, Prince Sultan.

The wild card in the Saudi deck is Bandar, the flamboyant former ambassador to Washington. When he was head of Saudi intelligence and paymaster to Saudi allies in Syria and Lebanon, he was an unpredictable — and in Washington's eyes, sometimes untrustworthy — operator.

Some Americans feared Bandar's covert efforts in the Syrian civil war were unintentionally spawning al-Qaida terrorists. U.S. officials were relieved when Bandar was removed as steward of the Syrian operation.

It has been Saudi Arabia's recurring nightmare to fight external enemies by encouraging Sunni movements that turn extremist and threaten the kingdom itself. This happened in the 1980s, when the Saudis joined the CIA in sponsoring the mujahideen in Afghanistan. The devout Muslim fighters drove out Soviet troops but evolved into the Taliban and al-Qaida.

The Saudis must worry that a similar process has happened again. Some of the Sunni fighters they backed against Iran have drifted toward the Islamic State. The Saudis did not intend the ongoing disaster, but they must now deal with it.

Western analysts credit Mohammed bin Nayef and Khaled bin Bandar for seeking to build more competent, professional security services at Interior and Intelligence. They'll need that skill, and luck, too. For Saudi Arabia, big challenges lie just over the horizon.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Why terror group in Iraq, Syria has many names

Terrorist groups think about branding as much as any other type of organization.

accurate since at least February.

According to Poynter, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, ABC News, CBS News and NBC News all use "ISIS." However, the U.S. government, including President Barack Obama, the Pentagon, and the State Department, uses "ISIL," for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The group's full Arabic name until recently was Al-Dawla Al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham — the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham — but there's some confusion over what exactly "al-Sham" refers to. It's a regional term for Syria, or "Greater Syria," that, given the group's territorial ambitions, could potentially refer to the entire Levant region, including Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Lebanon.

Then, in June, the group declared a caliphate and rebranded itself as simply the "Islamic State," reflecting more global ambitions. This presented a dilemma to news organizations. The Associated Press, which had been using ISIL, switched to Islamic State, as did The Washington Post, which had been using ISIS. Reuters seems to use ISIS and Islamic State interchangeably.

Among people in the region, including

senior government officials, the group is often referred to as Da'ash, its Arabic acronym. This name is usually used by the group's opponents and, according to some reports, saying it can be punishable by 80 lashes in ISIS-controlled areas.

Terrorist groups think about branding as much as any other type of organization. Documents seized from Osama bin Laden's compound show that he considered changing the name of his network from the generic-sounding al-Qaida ("the base"). The new names he pondered included the Arabic word jihad group, the Monotheism and Defending Islam Group, the Restoration of the Caliphate Group, and the Muslim Unity Group. None of these stuck.

Often, terrorist organizations don't get to decide what they're called. "Boko Haram" started as a local nickname (in Nigeria) for a group whose full name translates as "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad." (Boko Haram also doesn't exactly mean "western education is a sin," as it's usually translated. According to scholars of the Hausa language, boko can also mean "fraud" or "inauthenticity.")

For ISIS and others, this much is clear: It's not easy to control the message when the people you've sworn to kill are going to be the ones delivering it.

Joshua Keating is a staff writer at Slate focusing on international news, social science and related topics. He was previously an editor at Foreign Policy magazine.

OPINION

Obama's golf obsession is his wedge issue

By CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

Nothing infuriates President Barack Obama's adversaries more than his golf outings, which have become so frequent that even his sympathizers have started to mutter about the unseemly symbolism of a commander in chief who practically lives on the links.

In all the uproar, I've yet to hear what it is about golf that the president likes. He's not using it as a social icebreaker with Congress, as other chief executives have done. Fresh air, perhaps, or quality time with pals? In 2012, *Golf Digest* reported that Obama enjoys wagering up to \$10 a hole, so maybe that's it.

My experience with the game suggests a different motivation: He just can't help himself. I'm sure Obama would like to devote more time to his job and his family. But, you see, if he had just put that drive on No. 4 a little to the right, he probably would have made par. If that putt hadn't tipped the cup and rolled another six feet, a double bogey would have been a bogey. So if he just spends a little more time on the driving range and keeps his head down on those fairway irons...

That sort of interior monologue kept me coming back to the course, round after wretched round, for a substantial stretch of what might otherwise have been a productive adulthood. I was just compensating to believe persistence might pay off, capable of breaking 90. I thought, falsely, that I was capable of breaking 90.

Trying to explain Obama's obsession, White House spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters last week that, "you know, sports and leisure activities are a good way for re-

lease and clearing of the mind for a lot of us" — which is true of golf, if you consider it mind-clearing to ruminate for hours about why the hell you couldn't avoid the water on a simple par-3.

Somewhat more credibly, Obama's regular partner, Marvin Nicholson, told *Golf Digest* that the president "usually shoots in the mid-90s," but "he'd be better if he could play more." Ah, wouldn't we all?

After about half a decade of expensive futility, I finally sold my clubs at a yard sale. It was hard, but eventually I felt as if a weight had been lifted from my shoulders, and I don't just mean the bag.

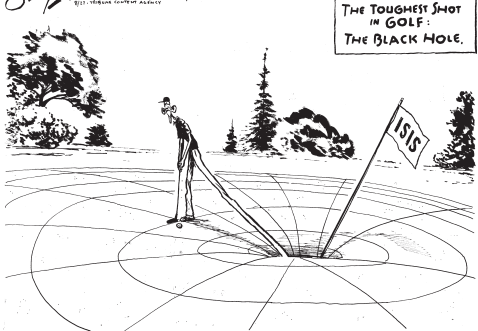
I have fond memories of my golf years, though I will never forget the time I drove the ball to within 30 yards of the green on a 350-yard par-4 — an easy pitch, which I shanked straight into the woods at my right. I batted the ball around the forest for about 15 minutes before emerging to score a 9. At least that's what I put on my card.

My golf trajectory is typical, which is one reason the game is losing popularity and, some fear (hope?), slowly dying out. America may have reached Peak Golf in 2005; the number of regular players hit 30 million that year and has been declining ever since.

A recent New York Times article cited National Golf Foundation statistics to the effect that the game will lose 20 percent of the current 25 million players in the next few years.

It has dawned on the dozens of the sport that expensive, time-consuming exasperation is a tough sell. Some have proposed attracting younger people by tweaking the ancient rules; one idea is to let beginners putt into a 15-inch-wide hole instead of the

OPINION BY CHARLES LANE © 2014



current 4.25-inch receptacle. They'll have to make it big enough for a beach ball to lure me back.

These facts about the game's declining popularity suggest a new hypothesis — beyond the standard gripes about how odd it is for a president to lament an American's murder by terrorists one minute and reach for his driver the next — as to why Obama's golf habit may hurt him politically. In a country where fewer and fewer people actually share his obsession, fewer and fewer are willing to cut him any slack for indulging it.

Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush,

wore off golf after concluding that it didn't look right to play while Americans fought and died in Iraq.

Obama might be well-advised to follow Bush's example. Knowing how hard it was to go cold-turkey myself, though, I'd be surprised if he did so immediately. He appears to be intent, still, on the maddening mission of handicap reduction.

Actually, I don't know why Obama's enemies insist that he quit. If they really wanted to ruin his life, they'd tell him to get back out on the course — and stay there.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

Netanyahu the only clear loser of the Gaza war

By DANIEL GORDIS
Bloomberg News

Back in 2009, Israel was festooned with election campaign banners that read, "A Strong Leader for a Strong Nation." They were Benjamin Netanyahu's banners, which, even if he had them in stock today, he would not dare use.

We have reached the Morning After, and this is an unhappy, dissatisfied, wounded and worried country. Israel is not feeling strong. And Israelis know that in this neighborhood, if you are not strong or do not appear strong, you simply cannot survive. Makor Rishon, a center-right daily, ran a front-page article this week quoting Iranian officials as saying that these are Israel's final years.

The political right smells blood. Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who coupled his Yisrael Beiteinu ("Israel is Our Home") party to Netanyahu's Likud for the January 2013 elections but has since insisted he would not do so again, has demanded that the Israeli Defense Forces retake the Gaza Strip. Few Israelis wanted to do that. The losses would have been extremely high (some estimates projected 500 to 1,000 soldiers killed), and it wasn't clear how Israel would eventually extricate itself or bear the international condemnation. Still, in the Morning After, some Israelis who thought that Lieberman was behaving like a rug are now muttering: "Maybe he was right."

No new polls have been taken since the cease-fire went into effect Tuesday night (there have already been 11 cease-fires



SEBASTIAN SCHNEIDER/AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared victory Wednesday in the recent war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

broken or rejected in this conflict, it should be noted, so there are no guarantees that the war is really over, but it would be shocking if Lieberman's popularity has not risen.

The other likely winner on the right is Economy Minister Naftali Bennett, whose Habayit Hayehudi ("The Jewish Home") party was a surprisingly strong player in recent elections. There has always been bad blood between Netanyahu and Bennett (some attribute it to Netanyahu's wife

detesting Bennett), and Bennett, like Lieberman, had also urged the use of much greater force. Bibi not only ignored him, but publicly smacked him down for creating a wartime rift in the Cabinet. It's virtually inconceivable that Bennett will not try a little jujitsu after that humiliation; he, too, is almost guaranteed to climb in the polls.

With Hamas celebrating in the streets, and Israelis who live near Gaza still insisting they're too afraid of rockets and tunnels to go home, the potential for Bennett and Lieberman to challenge Bibi has never looked better. Ironically, Hamas may have just ushered in a much more hard-line Israeli government.

But the political left is equally unhappy. Israel bombed Gaza into smithereens for seven weeks, killed thousands of people, many of them terrorists, but many of them civilians, women and children (as was inevitable, given that Hamas stationed itself in neighborhoods, mosques and hospitals). To do all of that without having achieved victory, the left insists, is a moral and political catastrophe. Haaretz, Israel's left-leaning paper of record, led Wednesday morning with an opinion piece noting that after Operation Cast Lead in 2008-09, Netanyahu castigated then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, saying that Hamas should have been toppled and security restored to Israel. Bibi insisted that only he could do it, which was when that "A Strong Leader for a Strong Nation" mantra re-appeared. "Reality is a bit more complicated, isn't it?" Haaretz derisively castigated him Wednesday morning.

In the center, YNet wrote that this may have been a tie, while David Horowitz

warned in the Times of Israel that "if, under a long-term deal, Hamas is able to replicate Hezbollah's strategy in Lebanon — to retain full or significant control of Gaza, to re-arm, to build a still more potent killing mechanism — then its claims of victory, appallingly, will be justified."

No one here is happy, and no one feels secure. True, it remains to be seen whether the cease-fire holds, and yes, Israel could still carve out a slightly better deal in the negotiations with Hamas that will begin in a month.

When Israelis feel this way, they usually "take out the trash." Golda Meir was forced to resign after the 1973 Yom Kippur War debacle, even though Israel ultimately emerged triumphant. Menachem Begin resigned after the Sabra and Shatila Massacre, for which he wasn't personally responsible, in part because Israel was mired in the costly Lebanon War he had unleashed. After Operation Cast Lead in Gaza, which was shorter and much less costly than Operation Protective Edge, Olmert was forced out of office and Netanyahu picked up the spools.

It's Morning After in Israel, and a country that is usually politically divided is suddenly in agreement: "This did not go well, at all." Wednesday morning, with the guns silenced, Bibi Netanyahu's problem is no longer Hamas. Today, he is worried about the Israelis.

Daniel Gordis is senior vice president and Koret distinguished fellow at Shalom College in Jerusalem. He is the author of "Menachem Begin: The Battle for Israel's Soul" and "The Promise of Israel."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sheriff: Man left 'selfie' at site of pot farm

TX SUGAR LAND — Authorities near Houston are searching for a man who left a selfie on a cellphone abandoned at a marijuana farm.

The Houston Chronicle reported that Fort Bend County sheriff's deputies are searching for Benigno Ramirez of Michoacan, Mexico. Authorities said they found a phone with his picture on a 4.4-acre farm raided last week.

The farm near Oyster Creek was accessible only by boat. It had as many as 10,000 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$10 million.

Authorities said they believe Ramirez had a key role in the farm.

Judge charged after exhibiting 'instability'

FL ORLANDO — A state judicial commission has filed formal charges against a Seminole County judge after finding probable cause that she has demonstrated instability and a bizarre pattern behavior during her tenure.

The Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission filed the charges Monday against Judge Linda Schoonover. At least two-thirds of the group's investigative panel found probable cause earlier this month to initiate formal proceedings.

Schoonover is accused of exhibiting "disruptive" behavior since her August 2010 election that includes falsely believing her office was bugged and being concerned another judge was trying to influence her decisions.

She also is charged with failing to remain impartial in a divorce proceeding after contacting one party in the case with a Facebook "friend request."

Schoonover faces reprimands, fines or removal from office if she's found guilty of the infractions.

River turns red after accidental dye dump

OH ST. MARYS — A city official said mistakenly dumped dye was to blame when part of a western Ohio river turned red earlier this week.

St. Marys Safety-Service Director Greg Foxhoven said about 55 gallons of food-grade red dye was dumped into the city's wastewater system because of an equipment failure. The water then was discharged into the St. Marys River, turning part of it red on Thursday.

Foxhoven said environmental and emergency management officials were notified, and the city was informed there wasn't environmental impact.

Foxhoven said the dye passed through the wastewater system undetected. He says the situation is under investigation.

Police: Man shoots girl in back with crossbow

RI CRANSTON — Police in Rhode Island said a man

THE CENSUS

\$316M

The amount New York state agencies racked up in overtime in the first six months of 2014, according to a report issued Tuesday by state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. DiNapoli's office says that state employees have worked more than 7.8 million overtime hours, and the Department of Corrections had the biggest overtime costs.



PHOTOS BY STEVE BISSON, SAVANNAH (GA.) MORNING NEWS/AP

How to train your raptor

Above: James Fleullan holds up a treat for Hunter, a red-tailed hawk, during a training session Monday at Oatland Island Wildlife Center in Savannah, Ga. Fleullan, a volunteer, is training the hawk to fly on command from a perch to his gloved hand to take part in the center's bird show. **Right:** Fleullan blows his whistle and holds a quail treat in his gloved hand as tries to entice Hunter to fly to him.

with a crossbow who was trying to shoot a pigeon outside his home accidentally struck a 9-year-old girl with a bolt.

Cranston police said the bolt ricocheted off the ground and struck Lexi Franco in the back as she was walking with friends on a street Tuesday afternoon. Police said she pulled out the bolt herself and was taken to a hospital, where tests showed no serious injuries and she was discharged.

Authorities charged Daniel King, 27, with felony criminal negligence and detained him as a suspected probation violator. Police said King told officers it was an accident.

Court records show King is serving one year of probation for vandalism.

Man breakfasts at Taco Bell, then robs it

MO ST. LOUIS — Police in St. Louis are searching for a man who ate breakfast at a Taco Bell, then robbed the restaurant after finishing his meal.

The crime happened shortly after 7 p.m. Aug. 15 on Hampton Avenue, and police released surveillance images on Monday.

The man bought food, sat down and ate it, then approached the counter, showed a gun and demanded money from a employee. The employee gave the gunman money and the robber fled.

Boaters rescued 2 miles from falls

NY NIAGARA FALLS — Authorities said two boaters were about 2 miles from the brink of Niagara Falls when they were rescued from their disabled vessel by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter.

Coast Guard officials said their Buffalo station received a call about 9:15 p.m. Monday reporting a 19-foot motorboat with two men aboard was anchored in the Niagara River about 2,000 feet inside the 2.5-mile exclusion zone from the falls.

A crew from the Coast Guard air station in Detroit was dispatched to the scene, along with a Coast Guard vessel from Buffalo and boat crews from state and local police.

The river's shallow depth prevented the vessels from reaching the anchored boat. A Coast Guard helicopter rescued the two boat-

ers shortly before midnight.

The boat remains on the river. The owner is arranging salvage with a commercial service company.

Police dog killed by lightning strike

FL PANAMACITY BEACH — A lightning strike from a passing thunderstorm in Florida killed a Panama City Beach police dog named Argo.

The daughter of the dog's handler, Cpl. Jason Gleason, found the dog behind his kennel Sunday evening.

Gleason left the dog in his kennel because he was on his way to a training session. Officials said most of the fur was missing from Argo's front leg above the paw, indicating a lightning strike.

Police Chief Drew Whitman says Gleason is having a "hard time" dealing with the dog's death.

Argo replaced Gleason's former K-9 partner, Poncho, who disappeared and was presumed dead in 2009 while tracking suspects in the woods.

Argo had four national certificates and helped seize about

\$25,000 in illegal narcotics.

Officers find sheriff asleep on sidewalk

MT BILLINGS — Two police officers reported finding the Roosevelt County sheriff asleep on a sidewalk in Wolf Point earlier this month.

A police report obtained by The Billings Gazette indicates Officer Joey Olson spotted a man lying on the sidewalk at about 3:30 a.m. on Aug. 14, and suspected he was "intoxicated and sleeping."

The report says the officers identified the man as Sheriff Freedom Crawford and took him to his in-laws' house at his request.

Crawford wasn't cited. The Gazette says it's unclear whether the county took any disciplinary action.

Crawford declined to comment last week and was out of the office on Thursday morning.

Crawford was given a six-month suspended jail term after pleading guilty to assault for throwing a man through a bar window during a drunken fight in Lewistown in August 2011.

From wire reports

TRAVEL

Topical paradise



PHOTOS BY MARCO GARCIA/AP

Above: A bicyclist rides past a mural depicting portraits of Hawaiian Queen Liliuokalani and King David Kalakaua in Kakaako, a neighborhood in Honolulu. Right: A mural by street artist Axis on the wall of the Friends of the Library building in Kakaako shows a skeleton surfer flashing the Hawaiian hand greeting.

Edgy art in Honolulu neighborhood carries social commentary

BY MARCO GARCIA
The Associated Press

Honolulu is famous for golden sand beaches and big waves. But the city's warehouse district, called Kakaako, is famous for a different sort of attraction.

You won't find kitschy Hawaiian souvenir shops or hordes of tourists here, but you will find a thriving urban arts scene, with colorful street murals so big they stretch across walls and sometimes entire sides of buildings.

In one mural, a skeleton with a surfboard in tow flashes the shaka, a Hawaiian hand-greeting. In another, a snarling panda ferociously snaps its jaws near a doe-eyed maiden. A third shows a banana in grass skirts dancing a hula with a talking pineapple.

Kakaako sits between Honolulu's downtown and the touristy Waikiki. In ancient times, the area was home to a native Hawaiian fishing village. In the 20th century, the area industrialized, with warehouses, auto repair shops and car dealerships. The neighborhood has declined in recent years as landowners struggled to find ways to utilize its prime real estate, smack in the middle of Honolulu.

It wasn't until 2011 that Honolulu artist Jasper Wong sought to revitalize the area with urban art. Wong created a group called POW!WOW! Hawaii with the goal of beautifying Kakaako and bringing people together through art. Artists from around the globe participated, painting murals on

walls across the decaying neighborhood.

Wong says the art represents a unique local style, mixing the elaborate urban graffiti seen in places like Brooklyn, Miami, Tokyo and London with Hawaiian cultural influences and Asian anime. It's also a far cry from the

graffiti-tagging that once plagued the neighborhood.

One of the more powerful murals covers the sides of a building near a popular gym, the UFC Gym at 805 Puuhikaina St. The faces of Hawaiian royalty, King David Kalakaua and Queen Liliuokalani, appear on the wall in a swirling mist of fantasy, history and social commentary. It was created by native Hawaiian artists Solomon Enos and John "Prime" Hina along with mainland artist Gaia.

For vacationers, the neighborhood's edgy vibe and urban art offer an appealing alternative to Oahu's better-known attractions: sunny days at the beach or trips to historic sites like Pearl Harbor. Teens might especially relate to the vivid anime themes, while older viewers will appreciate the area's Banksy sensibility — yet all the art can be seen outside the confines of a traditional museum.

But the Kakaako murals are not just colorful paintings. Many have political messages and social commentary well beyond anime references and bright spray-paint colors. And while you can spot most of the artwork easily by walking around, some is hidden down alleyways and back streets.

About Kakaako

The heart of the Honolulu neighborhood stretches along Ala Moana Boulevard roughly from Ward Street on the east to South Street on the west, and north to about Queen Street. Most of the murals stretch north from Ala Moana and can be found in and around Aaahi Street and Puuhikaina Street, which are both parallel to Ala Moana.

According to Wong, the murals are replaced with new art every February. But with much of Kakaako currently slated for redevelopment, the old warehouses and buildings that now serve as canvases will eventually be demolished and replaced with residential high rises.

POW!WOW! Hawaii is working with landowners to create initiatives to keep the art alive as the area changes. So visitors to the area might not catch the dancing banana or the faces of Hawaiian royalty, but there's hope that as time goes on, they'll still be able to see new and equally exciting murals.



A collaboration between New Zealand artist Tanja Jade and Australia artist Dabs Myla on the wall and alleyway of a car dealership in Kakaako shows a dancing banana with a talking pineapple.

LIFESTYLE



DANIEL ACKER/Bloomberg News

A redesigned Greyhound bus exits the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York in 2009. That year, Greyhound unveiled a fleet of new motorcoaches, with an updated exterior design and an interior with increased leg room, Wi-Fi access, power outlets and seat belts.

At 100, Greyhound looks better than ever

The former top dog is sprinting to stay in the transit race

By ANDREA SACHS
The Washington Post

It was nearing midnight when a sleek coach adorned with galloping canines inched through the new Greyhound terminal in Washington. The 45-foot-long vehicle rolled past a glass-enclosed ticket counter emitting a warm glow, a wood-paneled waiting room and me sitting on a bench, watching for the 12:01 bus to Chicago.

The driver pulled into a spot and hopped out, dressed in the same shades of blue as his charge. Despite the hour and the long road ahead, he was a ball of energy.

"The ride is faster than you think," Tony Stevens assured the dozen or so passengers bound for destinations between the capital and the Midwest.

As part of the boarding process, Stevens matched our IDs to our tickets. He looked at my ticket — Washington to Hibbing, Minn. — and exclaimed, "I've been there. That's where they have the museum."

And that was why I was going: to visit the Greyhound Bus Museum in its place of birth 100 years ago this year. My pilgrimage would take one day, 14 hours and 19 minutes and would include three transfers (Chicago, Minneapolis, Duluth) and countless rest stops. I was also trying to give Greyhound a chance to redeem itself.

I last took the bus line several years ago to New York. Two buses departed without me, even though I was standing in the station and holding a ticket. (The company is serious about not guaranteeing seats.) Once aboard a third bus, I sat beside a mentally unstable man who was shouting into an imaginary phone about a CIA conspiracy.



And so for Greyhound's birthday, I was hoping to find beneath my seat the gift of pleasant travel — with no exchange required.

Rebooting its image

Greyhound Lines has improved with age. In defiance of its years, and its long-standing image as the chariot of absolute last resort, the bus line is growing more youthful, more spirited and more relevant. And much less scary.

"We've had a reputation that's some-

what unfounded," said chief executive and president David Leach over the phone from Greyhound headquarters in Dallas. "We had to figure out how we were going to rapidly change the perception of our company."

It's a tough challenge. For years, a dark cloud of disrepute has shadowed the bus company across North America. The homeless camped out in the terminals. Riffraff and troublemakers poisoned the atmosphere onboard. The bathrooms reeked, the seat fabric itched. In the past decade, two murders — one of a driver, another of

a sleeping passenger — hardened the line's image as dangerous.

Those incidents were the extreme, but a lax and uncontrolled party-bus atmosphere was commonplace.

"You don't want to know how many times the bus driver called the cops because of pot-smoking," Christo Karskis, a passenger I met on the final leg, recalled of a Miami-to-Los Angeles odyssey in 1979. "Those days, people were drinking on the bus. It was fun."

Add to these problems the return of the bus as a viable and even fashionable mode of travel. On inter-city routes — Washington/New York, Philadelphia/Boston, San Francisco/Los Angeles — today's highways host a parade of bold-colored vehicles, all rivals to the sprinting pup.

"The stigma of bus travel has fallen," said Joseph Schwieterman, director of DePaul University's Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development in Chicago. "There's some romance in riding the bus because, sitting way up high, you can see vistas that you can't see in cars. And there's adventure, too."

To meet the competition and the challenges, Greyhound has been drastically overhauling its strategies and rebooting its image. The dog is moving on, leaving the bus line of your crazy, boozey uncle's day by the side of the road.

At Union Station, several of Greyhound's game-changing initiatives are on view, a flat business plan brought to life.

Over the years, the company has started to relocate many of its stations into "inter-modal facilities," or, less formally, malls of transportation. It has abandoned the deserted islands in shadowy neighborhoods for central hubs with links to other modes of travel.

After 9/11, Greyhound followed the airline industry's lead and bulked up security. It installed plastic shields to protect the drivers, added security forces in the terminals and surveillance cameras in the

"The stigma of bus travel has fallen. There's some romance in riding the bus because, sitting way up high, you can see vistas that you can't see in cars. And there's adventure, too."

Joseph Schwieterman

director of DePaul University's Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development in Chicago

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

LIFESTYLE



A display with mannequins tells the story of soldiers going off to war inside the Greyhound Bus Museum in Hibbing, Minn.

PHOTOS BY JENN ACKERMAN AND TIM GRUBER/The Washington Post

FROM PAGE 16

vehicles, heightened screening, and routed out loiterers from the stations and disruptive passengers from the coaches.

Where it all began

Greyhound gets around. The bus line started small and humble, on a 2-mile patch of road in northern Minnesota, not far from my disenbarkation point at the Country Kitchen in Hibbing. Today, 1,229 vehicles serve more than 3,800 destinations in North America. The fleet covered more than 5.5 billion miles last year; for 2014, my journey contributed at least 1,100 miles to that final tally.

When I finally descended the bus steps for the last time, I found Ron Dicklich, the Greyhound Bus Museum's acting director, waiting for me. He ushered me into his car, and we set off on a nostalgic trip down Greyhound Lane.

Carl Eric Wickman and Andrew "Bus Andy" Anderson created the company in 1914 as a shuttle service for iron miners and their families. The car salesmen initially used the unsold inventory from their Hupmobile dealership to transport workers between the pit, their homes and the commercial district of Alice, which was later absorbed into Hibbing. They charged 15 cents per ride and made a \$740 profit on the second day of business.

Dicklich waived the fee for our tour, although I would have happily paid a quarter, including tip, for the retro experience. We drove through the blink-and-it's-gone downtown of low red-brick buildings built in the mid-1920s. Outside town, we passed wide bands of green space set between large boulevards and punctuated by original lampposts and street signs.

The Greyhound Bus Museum opened in 1987 and moved to its current location on Greyhound



The main street in Hibbing, Minn. The city is recognized as the birthplace of the bus industry in the United States.



AMANDA VOISARD/The Washington Post

Passengers wait to board a Greyhound bus at the Union Station in Washington, D.C. The company is relocating many of its stations, abandoning the deserted islands in shadowy neighborhoods for central hubs with links to other modes of travel.

Boulevard 12 years later. The modest-yet-thorough attraction begins the journey with black-and-white photos and a model of the first "bus," the Hupmobile, a seven-passenger automobile from the first half of the 20th century. Exhibit cases packed with toy buses and drivers' uniforms (the

dashing '30s featured tall leather boots, tucked-in pants and a belted, double-breasted jacket) track the evolution of style, shape and design through the decades. The museum also owns 19 coaches, including several on display that guests can pretend-ride.

"It follows the progression of

buses as they get better," Dicklich said.

First up: the 1927 White Bus, which resembles a blue school bus with a snowcapped top. Next in line: the 1936 Super Coach, which introduced shocks, raised flooring and such cushiony comforts as padded seating; and the 1947 Brill, a silver bullet with the first overhead luggage racks.

I walked along the row of parked vehicles, trying out the different buses until I reached the last model, the 1982 MCI 9. This bus had a good-looking interior with a high roof and large picture windows. Despite its attractiveness, however, I knew that I'd made the right decision to celebrate Greyhound on its 100th anniversary (WiFi, leather seats, outlets) and not its 38th (none of the above).

The road ahead

On the graveyard run to Pittsburgh, Tony Stevens kept his eyes locked on the road but his mouth moving as we discussed next century Greyhound.

"It's a shame that we don't go there," he said when I asked about company changes, including chopping service to Hibbing. "That's our birthplace."

Unfortunately, sentimentality doesn't earn a profit.

In 2003, Greyhound redrew its map. Following the national population shift from small towns to suburbs and metropolises, it eliminated low-demand rural stops and started concentrating on dense, urbanized routes. The company cut nearly 37 percent of its network, including service to Hibbing.

"Towns were devastated that they lost Greyhound," DePaul's Schwierman said. "The days are gone when every little town has a Greyhound stop."

To reach my final destination, I had to transfer to Jefferson Lines,

Today, 1,229 (Greyhound) vehicles serve more than 3,800 destinations in North America. The fleet covered more than 5.5 billion miles last year.

a 95-year-old regional coach company, in Minneapolis. Then I took a once-a-day bus from Duluth to Hibbing in a vehicle the size of a hotel shuttle.

"Everyone was looking for Greyhound," Jordan Greene said of other passengers boarding in the Twin City. "They didn't know it was Jefferson."

But what the Hibblings of the USA lost, the Washingtons and New Yorks gained. In 2008, Greyhound's new line, BoltBus, appeared on city curbs with non-stop service, fancy buses and dollar-store prices. Two years later, Greyhound Express pulled up, a near twin of Bolt with the exception of the pickup/drop-off points (terminal, not curb) and the breadth of its reach (Express travels to many towns between the cities). Unlike Greyhound Sr., Junior offers guaranteed seating. Within the next 24 months, Leach said, "the entire national network should be Expressified." The company will "Boltify" its gray-haired system as well. At the moment, travelers must present a printed ticket, an online reservation displayed on your gadget won't roll.

Leach said that to streamline the ticketing process, Greyhound drivers will eventually use an app that contains a passenger manifest, plus personal details about individuals' travel habits. (Bolt drivers are currently testing this technology.) The micro-information can lead to perks, he said. For instance, if a driver notices that a traveler often takes the bus to New York on Thursdays, she may receive an email about a sale on that route. Or a passenger on a bus that was delayed may be surprised with a 30 percent off coupon for a subsequent trip. Or the driver might buy a frequent rider a Valued Customer burger at a rest stop.

"Like airlines, we want to build a more intimate relationship with our customers," Leach said.

Cassandra Peterson, a 20-year-old college sophomore in New York who was spending the summer at a Christian camp in Ohio, wasn't completely feeling the puppy love. The first-time Greyhoundee was unfamiliar with the rhythms of the bus. She stood out, a bit nervous, as she fumbled with her sleeping bag, searching for a seat with an outlet.

"I've never been on a bus or to Ohio or to Pittsburgh," she said. "There was a little apprehension, but it's not as bad as I thought."

As the bus approached Cleveland, her final destination, she called her mother.

"Hey," she said, sounding relieved, "everything worked out." More than a day later, I called my own mother with a similar report.

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HEALTH & FITNESS



Tri It For Life athletes **Tonya Hanna**, left, **Nicole Koll**, above left, and **Pam Christian**, above right, swim laps during a swim lesson at the Dowd YMCA in Charlotte, N.C. Thirty-seven percent of American adults cannot swim the length of a 25-yard swimming pool.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT LANSEER, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Adult swim

Many find it's never too late to learn

By **TONYA JAMESON**
The Charlotte Observer

The moment brings laughter now, but it sure wasn't funny then.

Michelle Simmons swam to the middle of the deep end at the YMCA pool and froze. She was too tired to go all of the way to the wall. She was too scared to turn around and swim back to the shallow end.

She yelled for help. A lifeguard fished her out of the pool.

Simmons almost quit taking swimming lessons on that dreadful Sunday. As her friends from Tri It for Life triathlete training program reminded her, she'd come so far. Simmons was one month into swim lessons in preparation for her first triathlon. She was also a month into starting a life in which she was no longer afraid of water.

Until this spring, Simmons was among the 37 percent of American adults who can't swim the length of a 25-yard pool. She was one of the 46 percent who are afraid to go into water over their head.

According to federal figures, an average of 10 people drown each day in the United States, and the inability to swim is the No. 1 "risk factor."

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte offers 550 adult swim classes per year. The Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation recently added a second weekday adult swim class at one recreation center. Spring and summer are so busy that there is typically a wait list, according to Patricia A. Daly, aquatic recreation

coordinator/supervisor.

Daly first noticed the increase in adult learners after 9/11.

"Many older career people changed jobs and wanted to either go back to teaching lessons or even lifeguard(ing). Kind of a life-is-too-short thing," she said. "Now it is people who always put it off, are now making the time to learn either for their kids or themselves." Katie

Adams, 71, is one of those people who is learning for herself. She's been taking lessons for nearly two years. When she first started she wanted to learn to swim so that she could save herself or help someone else. Now, she's trying to swim well enough to swim the length of the pool without stopping. She did it once, but she wants to be consistent.

Kathy Tingle, 54, also learned for herself. "I didn't know I had a fear of water until I tried to learn how to swim," she said. Swim lessons were a recent birthday gift to herself.

Tingle and Adams were two of the four women taking lessons at the Johnston YMCA on a recent Tuesday. They're part of the reason Johnston's program has grown dramatically in recent years.

Danielle Rader, aquatics and sports director, said adult swim private lessons have grown by more than 150 percent from two years ago. She expects the classes to continue to grow. "People are realizing this is life

and death," Rader said.

Teaching adults is different from teaching children, Rader said. Adults bring different learning styles and sometimes acute fears based on previous experience that most children don't have.

When it comes to adults, it's really about

making them comfortable and earning their trust, Rader said. Teaching adults requires the instructor to rationalize each exercise and reassure the students that they are getting better. With kids, it's ice cream cones, blowing bubbles and fun.

With adults, she said, "Something as simple as putting your head underwater could take two lessons."

Simmons can relate to that. "I was definitely afraid of water. If I could not touch the bottom, I wasn't going any farther," she said.

That changed this year. She didn't quit after the day she panicked in the pool. Now, she calls herself an "advanced bubble blower."

She completed her first triathlon sprint by swimming the 200 yards on her back in 12 minutes. She's pumped for another triathlon this fall. Maybe she'll be coordinated enough to swim that one face down.



Pam Christian, left, gets help with her backstroke from Tri It For Life mentor **Lisa McDaniel**, center, during a swim lesson. Mentors with the program spend 12 weeks helping train women for their first triathlon.

VIDEO GAMES

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

It feels like a well-armed Christmas morning at Sledgehammer Games.

Michael Condrey and Glen Schofield, co-founders of the video game studio responsible for the next "Call of Duty" installment, are excitedly unwrapping virtual goodies in the chummy meeting room that connects their offices: a pistol with a polycarbonate grip! a rifle equipped with a ballistics computer! A leather captain's cap!

"You can end up with something like 22 billion combinations," Condrey told The Associated Press recently. "It's kind of an outlandish number, but it's not really about the number. It's just that it's fun to you. You can be one of 22 billion. You can finally, really customize your character in 'Call of Duty.'"

"It took him three weeks to calculate that," Schofield joked.

As players snipe opponents and meet goals in multiplayer matches, they could end up with three different pieces of such loot each round. While virtual booty is hardly an original idea in gaming, Condrey and Schofield expect their new swag system to make a big impact on "Call of Duty," where even subtle changes can shift how the game is played by millions online.

"We call it supply drop," Condrey said. "It provides you with thousands of rewards for time played and accomplishments for your play style — more than 350 weapon variants, thousands of pieces of unique character gear and consumable one-off rewards like extra perks and score-streaks."

The more customizable virtual army is one of several updates coming to the multiplayer mode of "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," the latest installment of Activision Blizzard's wildly successful shoot-'em-up franchise. "Advanced Warfare," scheduled for release Nov. 4, is setting the 10-year-old military series' sights squarely on the future.

The single-player campaign kicks off in 2054 with a global terrorist attack on several nuclear reactors. The raid leads to the rise of massive private military companies, such as Atlas Corp., a fictional outfit armed with futuristic war toys like walking tanks that's led by the power-hungry Jonathan Irons. He's portrayed in a voice- and motion-capture performance by Kevin Spacey.

The high-tech elements extend to the game's multiplayer matches, the ad-



CALL OF DUTY

ADVANCED WARFARE

Latest installment jumps past predecessors



PHOTOS BY JEFF CHEN/AP

Glen Schofield, left, and Michael Condrey, co-founders of Sledgehammer Games, offer a more customizable virtual army along with several other updates in the upcoming multiplayer mode of "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare."



Animation director Christopher Stone works on "Advanced Warfare." The new game, which offers a chilling vision of the future of war, is scheduled for release Nov. 4.



Senior technical artist Mason Sheffield works on the face of actor Kevin Spacey, who stars as Jonathan Irons — one of the most powerful men in the world — in the latest "Call of Duty" installment.

dictive mode where "Call of Duty" players spend most of their time. "Advanced Warfare" gamers will each be outfitted with a customizable exoskeleton suit that enables them to quickly dodge incoming fire, create makeshift shields, boost into the air and slam down on enemies.

It's a giant leap from the traditional and realistic realism, a return to movement of past "Call of Duty" chapters.

"It changes the way we designed the maps," Schofield said. "We've got verticality now. I think for people who've been playing 'Call of Duty' for 10 years and are used to playing a certain way, they're going to have to learn a new way to play. It changes your tactics and the speed of the game. You can get up onto roofs and much taller places now."

Condrey and Schofield started tinkering on "Advanced Warfare" three years ago, after shelving a third-person "Call of Duty" title and finishing work on "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3."

"At the time, (Activision) said to take some chances, and if we go too far, they'll tell us — and we did," said Condrey, who previously worked with Schofield on the "Dead Space" sci-fi series at Electronic Arts Inc. "We took some chances, and a few times they told us we took it too far. There was a desire from Activision to innovate in a big way. This isn't your same old 'Call of Duty.'"

"Advanced Warfare" is poised to be a pivotal test for the aging "Call of Duty" franchise after 2013's "Ghosts" sold less than 2012's "Black Ops II" at launch. There also are a few newcomers to the shooter genre this year, including Activision's "Destiny" from Bungie and EA's "Titanfall" from Respawn Entertainment — a game that similarly features players being propelled through the air.

The reaction to the "Call of Duty" updates was mixed Aug. 11 after Condrey and Schofield unveiled the game's multiplayer mode during a presentation broadcast live from Gamescom, the gaming industry trade show in Cologne, Germany.

Ludwig Kietzmann of the gaming blog Joystiq praised the changes, noting "the move to the future has divorced the game from some of today's real-world violence, dressing soldiers in unrecognizable power armor and granting them laser guns that seem too fun to be true." He added it "strengthens and draws focus to 'Call of Duty's' standing as a multiplayer game."

Online: callofduty.com/advancedwarfare



Many staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts are read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in



Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.

STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2014 VFW News Media Award – For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Martin Kuz, "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place News Series (Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign – Honorable Mention
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 200,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headline Awards – First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism – George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards – Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009; Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morn

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morn, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lewis; Photography: Terry Boyd

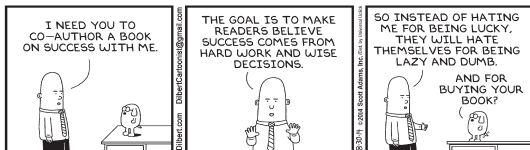
2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Series

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

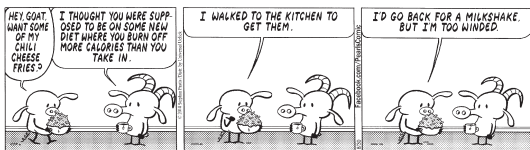
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



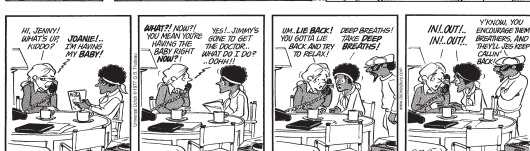
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



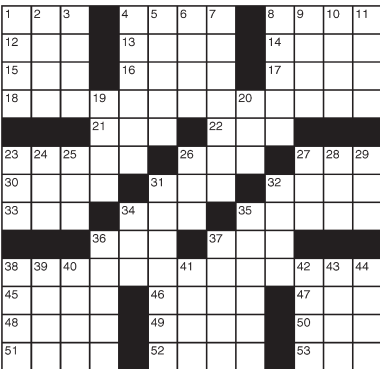
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Frat party item
- 4 Uppercase
- 8 Wile E.'s supplier
- 12 Aye opponent
- 13 "So be it"
- 14 Traveler
- 15 Kreskin's claim
- 16 Veritas source
- 17 Decays
- 18 Brunch entree
- 21 Day fractions (Abbr.)
- 22 Last letter
- 23 Frequently
- 26 Morning moisture
- 27 Schedule abbr.
- 30 Blood line
- 31 Flop
- 32 Hammerhead part
- 33 Shock and —
- 34 Have bills
- 35 Kid's dad
- 36 Literary collection
- 37 Raw rock
- 38 Cowboy's seat, maybe
- 45 Jam ingredient?
- 46 Centers of attention
- 47 Atmosphere
- 48 Cheshire Cat's look
- 49 "Zounds!"
- 50 O or GQ
- 51 Angry

DOWN

- 52 Actress Diana
- 53 Paid player
- 1 Recognized
- 2 Facility
- 3 Swindles
- 4 Underground chamber
- 5 Eastern potates (Var.)
- 6 Teller's partner
- 7 Took a nap
- 8 Correspond
- 9 Groovy
- 10 Apportion (out)
- 11 Formerly
- 19 Subsequently
- 20 Kittenish comment
- 23 Eggs
- 24 A handful
- 25 Dead heat
- 26 Payable
- 27 Conger, e.g.
- 28 — Aviv
- 29 Whatever number
- 31 Was much bigger than
- 32 Mottled
- 34 Single
- 35 Plaits
- 36 Expiate
- 37 Tinseltown trophy
- 38 Humorous folks
- 39 Continental coin
- 40 Swizzle
- 41 NASA scrub
- 42 Moist
- 43 Perjuror
- 44 So

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-30

CRYPTOQUIP

WSVFNZY WZWRENEQ PRG
PRRH AWWH UJ QJIEZWOW
WSVFNZYNKNEQ NE OAIUYNEQ:

WAIING WZYOW.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: FOR TOFU EATEN
ABROAD MANY RUSSIAN SPACECRAFTS, I
PRESUME THEY HAD TO UTILIZE SOYUZ-BEANS.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals F

Enrique Aguirre	34-34-68
Francesco Laporta	34-34-68
Edoardo Raffaele Lipparelli	34-34-68

AUTO RACING

Stewart set for return

Driver will race for first time following fatal crash

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Tony Stewart should be back in his comfort zone at a NASCAR track, ready for racing.

His return from a three-week hiatus isn't so simple.

Stewart was to emerge from seclusion Friday at Atlanta Motor Speedway for the first time since his car struck and killed a fellow driver during a dirt-track race.

But he comes back to Sprint Cup competition with a decision pending on whether he will be charged in Kevin Ward Jr.'s death. The three-time NASCAR champion has not raced since his car hit Ward at an Aug. 9 sprint car event in upstate New York. Stewart pulled out of the NASCAR race at Watkins Glen the next morning, then skipped races at Michigan and Bristol Motor Speedway.

Stewart, who was described by police as "visibly shaken" the night of Ward's death, has been in seclusion ever since. Stewart-Haas Racing executive vice president Brett Frood has said the emphasis was on giving Stewart time needed to get him "in a better place than he is."

Stewart's only comment since the crash was a statement the day after the crash in which he said "there aren't words to describe the sadness I feel about the accident that took the life of Kevin Ward Jr."

He will talk to the media for the first time since the fatal crash on Friday.

Ward had climbed from his car after it had spun while racing for position with Stewart. The 20-year-old walked down into the racing surface waving his arms in an apparent attempt to confront Stewart.

Authorities said the first to pass Ward had to swerve to miss hitting him. The front of Stewart's car then appeared to clear Ward, but Ward was struck by the right rear tire and hurtled through the air.

He died of blunt force trauma. Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero has said investigators did not have any evidence to support criminal intent by Stewart. Povero said Thursday the investigation is still ongoing.

Meanwhile, the 43-year-old NASCAR superstar will move forward with his career and attempt to salvage his season.

NASCAR released a statement saying that Stewart was eligible to return because he "has received all necessary clearances required to return to all racing activities." NASCAR said it would have no further comment until President Mike Helton speaks Friday afternoon.

Stewart, who has 48 career Cup wins in 542 starts, is one of the biggest stars in the garage. His peers have been protective of

him as questions emerged in the aftermath of the crash, and it pained them that Stewart was grieving in private and had cut off communication with so many of them.

"Great to have Smoke back at the track," tweeted Watkins Glen winner AJ Allmendinger.

"Glad to have my boss and my friend back at the track this weekend. #14 #SmokeWillRise," said Tony Gibson, Danica Patrick's crew chief at SHR.

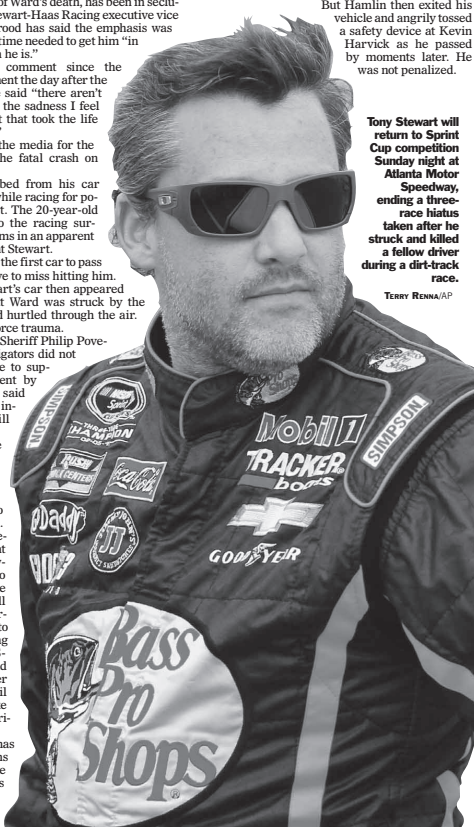
NASCAR rules state a driver must attempt to either qualify or race the car in every points-paying event to be eligible for Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, unless a waiver is granted. There was no immediate word if NASCAR would grant that waiver.

Since Ward's death, NASCAR has announced a rule that prohibits drivers from exiting from a crashed or disabled vehicle — unless it is on fire — until safety personnel arrive. Last week, Denny Hamlin crashed while leading at Bristol and stayed in his car until safety personnel arrived.

But Hamlin then exited his vehicle and angrily tossed a safety device at Kevin Harvick as he passed by moments later. He was not penalized.

Tony Stewart will return to Sprint Cup competition Sunday night at Atlanta Motor Speedway, ending a three-race hiatus taken after he struck and killed a fellow driver during a dirt-track race.

TERRY RENA/AP



Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Oral-B USA 500 at Hampton, Ga.

Track: Atlanta Motor Speedway (oval, 1.54 miles).

Race distance: 500.5 miles, 325 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Monday Central European Time.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the last of his four 2013 victories.

Last week: Joey Logano won at Bristol for his third victory of year to move into fourth in the points standings, holding off Penske Racing teammate Brad Keselowski.

Next race: Federated Auto Parts 400, Sept. 6, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.

Online: nascar.com

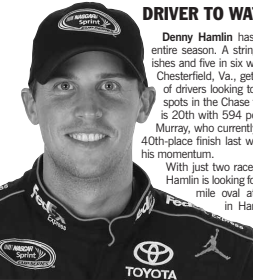
DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon.....	845
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	818
3. Brad Keselowski.....	776
4. Joey Logano.....	761
5. Matt Kenseth.....	751
6. Jimmie Johnson.....	726
7. Kevin Harvick.....	721
8. Carl Edwards.....	716
9. Ryan Newman.....	710
10. Clint Bowyer.....	699
11. Greg Biffle.....	694
12. Kyle Larson.....	668
13. Kasey Kahne.....	661
14. Austin Dillon.....	654
15. Paul Menard.....	649
16. Jamie McMurray.....	634
17. Kyle Busch.....	629
18. Marcos Ambrose.....	626
19. Brian Vickers.....	621
20. Denny Hamlin.....	594

DRIVER TO WATCH

Denny Hamlin has been a streaky racer this entire season. A string of four recent top-10 finishes and five in six weeks helped the driver from Chesterfield, Va., get back into the conversation of drivers looking to lock down one of the final spots in the Chase for the Championship — he is 20th with 594 points, 40 behind Jamie McMurray, who currently holds the final spot. But a 40th-place finish last week in Bristol put a dent in his momentum.

With just two races left before the field is set, Hamlin is looking for more success at the 1.54-mile oval at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga. Hamlin is the defending champion and needs another solid effort to boost his chances to qualify for the Chase.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Great Clips 300 at Hampton, Ga.

Track: Atlanta Motor Speedway (oval, 1.54 miles).

Race distance: 300.3 miles, 195 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 8 a.m. Sunday CET

Last year: Kevin Harvick held off fellow Sprint Cup driver Kyle Busch.

Last week: Ryan Blaney won at Bristol, bolting past Busch on a late restart.

Next race: Virginia 529 College Savings 250, Sept. 5, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: MaVTV 500 at Fontana, Calif.

Track: Auto Club Speedway (oval, 2.0 miles).

Race distance: 500 miles, 250 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 5:30 a.m. Monday CET.

Last year: Team Penske's Will Power won the season finale, and Target Chip Ganassi's Scott Dixon finished fifth for his third season title.

Last week: Dixon won on the road course at Sonoma.

Online: indycar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS

This week: Chevrolet Silverado 250 at Bowmanville, Ontario.

Track: Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (road course, 2.459 miles).

Race distance: 157.4 miles, 64 laps.

Last year: Chase Elliott wrecked Ty Dillon for the lead in the last turn to become the youngest winner in series history at 17 years, 9 months, 4 days.

Last week: Sprint Cup driver Brad Keselowski won at Bristol for his first career Truck victory.

Next race: Lucas Oil 225, Sept. 12, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Italian Grand Prix, Sept. 7, Autodromo di Monza, Monza, Italy.

Last week: Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won the Belgian Grand Prix for his third victory of the season. Mercedes' Nico Rosberg was second to increase his season lead.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLOW DRAG RACING

This week: U.S. Nationals at Clermont, Ind.

Track: Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis.

Last week: Shawn Langdon raced to the fifth of his seven 2013 victories en route to the Top Fuel season championship. Robert Hight won in Funny Car, Mike Edwards in Pro Stock, and John Hall in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: Morgan Lucas won the Top Fuel final in Minnesota on Aug. 17, beating series leader Doug Kalitta. The Funny Car final between John Force and Ron Capps, and the Pro Stock semifinals and final were postponed because of darkness after rain delays. They will be run this week in Clermont.

Next event: NHRA Carolina Nationals, Sept. 12-14, zMAX Dragway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nhra.com

MLB/U.S. OPEN

MLB roundup

Angels edge A's in 10, extend West lead to 2 games

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Howie Kendrick drove in Albert Pujols with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, and the Los Angeles Angels opened a two-game lead atop the AL West standings with a 4-3 victory Thursday night over the Oakland Athletics, who finished the game under protest over a ninth-inning obstruction call.

The Angels won the opener in a four-game series between the AL West clubs who hold the majors' best records.

Pujols drove a leadoff walk from Ryan Cook (1-2) in the 10th, and Josh Hamilton moved him to third with a bouncing hit up the middle.

Kendrick's long fly to right drove in the slow-footed Pujols, setting off a playoff-worthy celebration by the Angels, who have won 12 of 16.

Fernando Salas (5-0) pitched a perfect 10th for the Angels. He has retired 38 of

his last 41 batters.

Giants 4, Rockies 1: Yuseihiro Petit set a major league record when he retired his 46th batter in a row, and host San Francisco earned its third straight victory.

Petit (4-3) got the first eight Colorado hitters, establishing the mark by striking out Charlie Culberson. That broke Mark Buehrle's record of 45 straight with the Chicago White Sox in 2009.

Petit's streak covered eight games, six of them in relief. He also surpassed Jim Barry's NL record of 41 in a row with the Giants in 1972.

Orioles 5, Rays 4: J.J. Hardy singled in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning as Baltimore beat visiting Tampa Bay to stretch its lead in the AL East.

Steve Pearce homered for the Orioles, who took three of four from the sinking Rays. The victory, combined with the Yankees' loss to Detroit, put Baltimore seven

games ahead of New York with 30 games remaining.

Twins 11, Royals 5 (10): Jordan Scherf tied a career high with four RBIs, including a two-run single in the 10th inning for visiting Minnesota.

Bruce Chen (2-4), the sixth pitcher for the AL Central-leading Royals, gave up five hits and walked two in the 10th.

Tigers 3, Yankees 2: Alex Avila hit an RBI single with two out in the bottom of the ninth, lifting host Detroit.

A day after David Price gave up nine straight hits, the Tigers sent Kyle Lobstein to the mound for his first major league start. The rookie performed well, allowing one earned run in six innings.

Indians 3, White Sox 2: Carlos Carrasco pitched into the seventh inning, and Michael Bourn had two triples among his three hits for visiting Cleveland.

Jason Kipnis and Michael Brantley each

singled in a run for the Indians, who have won four of five and 11 of 16 overall to remain in the hunt for an AL wild card.

Braves 6, Mets 1: Mike Minor took a two-hit shutout into the eighth inning after hitting a double and single for host Atlanta.

Minor (6-8) had an RBI single in the second for the game's first run, and then doubled and scored in the eighth.

Astros 4, Rangers 2: Jason Castro hit a grand slam for host Houston, and Collin McHugh threw seven solid innings.

McHugh (7-9) earned his third straight win, allowing two runs and eight hits while striking out six.

Reds 7, Cubs 2: Billy Hamilton stole his 51st base and host Cincinnati swiped a total of six in a victory over Chicago.

Zack Cozart and Todd Frazier each stole two bases, and Kristopher Negron added one more.

Royals: Schedule favors small-market club

FROM BACK PAGE

Angels, Nationals, Brewers and Dodgers — had an average payroll of nearly \$147 million. And the Tigers, who are chasing the division-leading Royals, were shelling out more than \$163 million.

It's the same struggle that has taken place in Tampa Bay, Minnesota, Colorado and elsewhere in recent years: the haves versus the have-nots, the well-beeled against the wishful thinkers.

Yet the Royals, just like others have done in the past, are defying the odds. And with a finishing stretch filled with last-place teams, there is genuine optimism that a team that hasn't made the playoffs since 1985 might end the longest postseason drought in major pro sports.

"There's a lot of confidence," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "We knew we were capable as a group of doing special things. They had that confidence, and now that confidence level has even increased knowing they have what it takes to take this thing all the way through."

So, how have the Royals done it? How have they turned around an entire franchise accustomed to losing given the financial situation inherent in the game? Well, Moore provided a step-by-step look at the recipe, and it all started with

DEVELOPING THEIR OWN PLAYERS

The Royals had one of the worst farm systems in baseball when Moore arrived in 2006. But several years of high draft picks — including very much, 100-loss seasons — gave him a chance to replenish. First baseman Eric Hosmer, third baseman Mike Moustakas and catcher Salvador Perez are all homegrown players who are regular starters.

"We knew we had to build a strong farm system and graduate players to the major leagues, and we knew it would take some time," Moore said. "History tells us it's three or four years of producing at the minor league level if everything goes right, and two to four years of playing at the major league level. We had to have patience."

That's not always easy to have, especially for a long-suffering fan base.

Developing talent from within merely forms the foundation for a championship team, though. Even the best GMs will occasionally miss on the draft. No, success also takes:

STRIKING ON RECLAMATION PROJECTS

The Royals gave away virtually nothing a couple years ago for Jeremy Guthrie, and he's proven to be a reliable starter. They gave Jason Vargas a \$32 million contract this past offseason, even though he was merely mediocre with the Angels last season,

and he's outperformed the deal in almost every way. Vargas is 10-6 with a career-best 3.17 ERA.

"Our scouts have made some great recommendations," Moore said, "and I do my best to weigh the information and make good decisions. And you expect them all to work, but know they won't."

When they don't, poor decisions can be costly. The Royals gave forgettable pitcher Gil Meche a \$55 million contract early in Moore's tenure, and it set the rebuilding process back years.

In other words, striking on reclamation projects takes a little of luck. So does:

FINDING DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

Small-market franchises rarely outbid big-market clubs for top international talent. The Royals can't match the Yankees when they dole out \$155 million to Masahiro Tanaka, or the Rangers when they spend lavishly to bring Yu Darvish over from Japan. Instead, they've had to scour the globe for relative bargains.

The Royals signed Perez as a 16-year-old from Venezuela, and now the 24-year-old catcher is a two-time All-Star. Yordano Ventura signed for a \$28,000 bonus in 2008 and the rookie flannethrower is 10-9 with a 3.40 ERA. All-Star closer Greg Holland was drafted in the 10th round out of Western Carolina, and speedy outfielder Jarrod Dyson in the 50th round from a Mississippi junior college.

"We all come from different places," Dyson said. "I think that's one of our strengths."

The draft, the player development, the reclamation projects and diamonds in the rough — that might be enough to be competitive. But to get over the top, to truly contend, it still takes:

ONE OR TWO BIG MOVES

The Royals have made two blockbuster trades since Moore's arrival, and both of them have proven to be critical in establishing their winning roster.

The first happened in 2010, the Royals traded Cy Young winner Zack Greinke to Milwaukee for a package of prospects that included outfielder Lorenzo Cain and shortstop Alcides Escobar, both of them now starters. The second deal happened prior to last season, when the Royals sent several top prospects to Tampa Bay for James Shields, their ace, and Wade Davis, their setup man.

Whether that's enough to put the Royals over the top will be born out the final month of the regular season. But at least for now, the Royals are back to playing meaningful baseball.

"We've got a long way to go, as you know. We certainly believe in our players. We have from Day 1," Moore said. "But it's still such a long, long way to go. We have a month left. We have a lot of baseball to play. We just have to keep pushing."



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Shuai Peng reacts after defeating Roberto Vinci 6-4, 6-3 in the third round of the U.S. Open on Friday in New York.

Peng tops another seed, advances to round of 16

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Peng Shuai beat another seeded player at the U.S. Open to reach her second straight Grand Slam round of 16.

Two days after upsetting fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska, Peng defeated 28th-seeded Roberta Vinci 6-4, 6-3 on Friday. The Chinese veteran had gone two years without making it past the second round at a major tournament before her Wimbledon run this summer. But she didn't meet any seeded players in the first three rounds there before losing to eventual champion Petra Kvitová in straight sets.

This time, Peng, ranked 39th, will face 14th-seeded Lucie Safarova or 22nd-seeded Alize Cornet to try to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Ninth-seeded Jelena Jankovic also advanced by routing Johanna Larsson 6-1, 6-0. The 96th-ranked Larsson had upset Sloane Stephens in the second round.

The 31-year-old Vinci had made the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open the last two years but lost in the opening round at the first three major tournaments of 2014.

With third-ranked Li Na sidelined by a knee injury, Peng's success is giving the fans in China something to cheer.

On the men's side, 20th-seeded Gael Monfils beat Alejandro Gonzalez 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 in the second round.

Back page: The Royals' Alex Gordon jumps into the crowd surrounding home plate after hitting a two-run homer that gave Kansas City a 2-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday in Kansas City, Mo.

JOHN SLEEZER, KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS

For love of the game

Despite youth, Pelicans forward Davis embracing leadership role with Team USA

By BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

Anthony Davis is eager, not to mention proud, to accept the physical risks that go with playing without pay for Team USA.

With the FIBA World Cup approaching this weekend, Davis said playing for his country does more than make him a better player. It's also a way to spend his offseason doing what he loves while showing his appreciation for others who've made greater sacrifices, and taken far greater risks, in the name of patriotism.

"I love playing for USA basketball. Some guys look at it as they don't get paid, so you don't have to play or whatever," Davis said on a conference call with reporters on Thursday. "I love playing the game of basketball and any time I get a chance to represent my country, especially for all the servicemen and women who do so much for us, I think it's a great opportunity to show your appreciation."

"So I love doing things like this and I look forward to future years playing for USA Basketball."

His focus, however, is the much more immediate future. Namely, Saturday, when Team USA opens group play against Finland in Bilbao, Spain.

The risks of playing in events like the FIBA World Cup became magnified earlier this month when Indiana Pacers star Paul George broke his right leg in a stomach-turning collision under the basket.

Davis said he, like many on the court and around the world, were shaken by George's injury, which he called gruesome. But the 21-year-old Davis said he and fellow US teammates are now committed "to keep moving forward and try to win this (championship) for him."

Certainly, the last person who was going to dissuade Davis from playing was his Pelicans coach, Monty Williams, who is an assistant with the US Team under head coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Williams believes the environment created by USA basketball has only accelerated Davis' growth.

"I love playing the game of basketball and any time I get a chance to represent my country, especially for all the servicemen and women who do so much for us, I think it's a great opportunity to show your appreciation."

Anthony Davis
Team USA forward

confidence standpoint," Williams added.

Indeed, Davis has been Team USA's leading scorer during its four World Cup tuneup games against Brazil, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Slovenia. He has averaged 13.8 points to go with 13.5 rebounds and 3.8 blocks per game.

Davis, 6-foot-10, 237 pounds, said his role as a leader on the floor and in the locker room "definitely got bigger" after George was injured and other prominent players decided against playing.

And it's a role he's embraced.

"Getting an opportunity to be one of main guys on team means a lot," Davis said.

"He's understanding that he is a lead dog among a number of alpha dogs," Williams said of his 21-year-old power forward. "Mentally I think he's taken that up a few notches and I think Coach K has been a big part of that, pushing him to be a leader, pushing him to be the guy on the team."

"When you think about the names on this team and you look at the impact on the game that he has, you seldom say there's a better player on the floor than Anthony, so that's got to help him from a leadership standpoint," Williams added.

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Nikki Boertman, THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL/MCT

New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis has assumed a leadership role with USA basketball, leading the team in scoring over their last four games. He has averaged 13.8 points, 13.5 rebounds, and 3.8 blocks per game over that span.

Briefly

Shelly Sterling talks about Clippers' sale, husband

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When Shelly Sterling was approached by former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer about buying the Los Angeles Clippers, the wife of disgraced team owner Donald Sterling did not know who Ballmer was. But in short order she convinced him that the team was worth an unprecedented \$2 billion.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Shelly Sterling offered details of how she negotiated one of the richest deals in sports after her husband's racist rant to a girlfriend became public, prompting the NBA to ban him for life and decree he give up the team.

At that point, Shelly Sterling

stepped in.

"I was given the task and I did it," she said Thursday. "I just did what I had to do."

Prospective buyers started lining up when Ballmer entered the scene. She already had a bid of \$1.65 billion from David Geffen and an Egyptian princess was entering the bidding war.

She said she extracted a promise from Ballmer that he would never move the team to Seattle, his home town. The deal closed after a bitter probate fight with her husband.

Ballmer gave Shelly Sterling the title, owner emeritus and said she would have floor tickets for all games.

Shelly Sterling was thrown into the center of a publicity maelstrom with the release of explo-

sive audio tapes of her husband denouncing his young girlfriend for bringing black men to Clippers games.

She declined discuss details about her legal battle with V. Stiviano, the woman who released the tapes.

"I think it was very unfortunate that she would have done what she did," Sterling said.

Once Ballmer's offer was accepted the drama moved to probate court. Sterling had removed her husband from the family trust saying he was suffering. From the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

These days, she said, "We're on better terms. We try not to talk about the case. We have a business together so we have to talk."

Vikings WR Simpson gets 3-game suspension

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Jerome Simpson has been suspended for three games for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, his second such punishment in three seasons.

Simpson traveled to NFL headquarters last week for an appeal hearing, but his effort ultimately had no effect on the ban. Simpson was arrested last November on suspicion of drunken driving, and in January he pleaded guilty to careless driving and refusing to submit to a chemical test.

Simpson missed the first three games in 2012 following a felony drug conviction.

Celtics' Green donates \$1 million to alma mater

WASHINGTON — Boston Celtics forward Jeff Green is donating \$1 million to Georgetown's new athletic center.

The university announced the gift from the former Hoyas star on Thursday, Green's 28th birthday. He helped lead Georgetown to the Final Four in 2007 and was the No. 5 overall pick in the NBA draft that year.

Green's donation will go toward the John R. Thompson Jr. Interscholastic Athletics Center, which is named after the former Hoyas Hall of Fame coach. It's a \$62 million project that will be completely supported through philanthropy.

NFL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Goodell increases domestic-violence bans

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Acknowledging he "didn't get it right" with a two-game suspension for Ravens running back Ray Rice, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced tougher penalties for players accused of domestic violence, including six weeks for a first offense and at least a year for a second.

In a letter sent to all 32 team owners Thursday and obtained by The Associated Press, Goodell never mentions Rice by name but makes clear references to the Baltimore player who was charged with assault after being caught on video dragging his then-flame off a casino elevator.

"My disciplinary decision led the public to question our sincerity, our commitment, and whether we understood the toll that domestic violence inflicts on so many families. I take responsibility both for the decision and for ensuring that our actions

77

NFL players involved in 85 domestic-violence incidents since January 2000, according to USA Today's NFL Arrests Database.

Six were cut by their teams. The league suspended six for one game each, and Ray Rice was the second player to be suspended for two games.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in an email, "Each case will be addressed individually on its merits."

Outrage over Rice's punishment prompt-

ed three members of Congress to write to the commissioner asking him to reconsider Rice's ban; the governor of Maine threatened to boycott the league, and numerous groups that advocate for women and families condemned the penalty as too lenient.

The commissioner told teams to distribute his memo to all players and to post it in locker rooms. It reads in part: "Domestic violence and sexual assault are wrong. They are illegal. They are never acceptable and have no place in the NFL under any circumstances."

The memo says that violations of the league's personal conduct policy "regarding assault, battery, domestic violence and sexual assault that involve physical force will be subject to enhanced discipline."

The NFL Players Association said it had been informed of the increased punishments.

"As we do in all disciplinary matters, if we believe that players' due process rights are infringed upon during the course of

discipline, we will assert and defend our members' rights," the union statement said.

The personal conduct policy is not subject to collective bargaining with the players' union, and the commissioner has leeway to impose punishments for such off-field violations. Goodell's statement also did not stipulate whether the commissioner would act before a player is formally charged.

"We particularly applaud your decision to impose tougher penalties, and to give serious consideration to circumstances that may warrant even harsher consequences," said Esta Soler, chief executive of the advocacy group "Futures Without Violence," who met last week with Goodell.

"We know that this is not an issue that can be addressed overnight, and intimate partner violence will not be eliminated by tougher game penalties alone," the statement continued. Goodell promised more training and education for staff and players.

CFL rules prohibit Gordon from playing

CLEVELAND — Josh Gordon can't run a deep pass route into Canada and back.

The Cleveland Browns' suspended receiver wanted to play in the Canadian Football League during his indefinite suspension for a violation of the NFL's substance-abuse program, but CFL rules prohibit him from doing so.

Gordon, 23, whose season-long suspension was upheld on Wednesday, asked the Browns for permission to play for the Calgary Stampeders, a person familiar with the Pro Bowler's situation told The Associated Press on Thursday. However, a CFL rule that has been in place since 2006 bars suspended NFL players under contract from playing.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the talks.

CFL spokesman Jamie Dykstra said the only way Gordon could play in the league is if he was released by the Browns. Former Indianapolis wide receiver LaVon Brazill, serving a four-game NFL drug suspension, signed last week with Toronto after being cut by the Colts.

The CFL's board of governors adopted the rule eight years ago after suspended running back Ricky Williams played one season for Toronto.

From The Associated Press



Josh Gordon
AP



Joe C. Hong/AP

USC's Steve Sarkisian has yet to make his debut as the school's head football coach, but his program already is reeling from a player getting caught in a lie and another apparently accusing him of racism.

Trojans' Sarkisian accepts some blame in Shaw situation

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern California coach Steve Sarkisian believes he shares blame with the athletic department for publicizing cornerback Josh Shaw's fictitious story about injuring his ankles while saving his nephew from drowning. Sarkisian also said Thursday that the suspended Shaw could "potentially" return to the Trojans this season.

"Obviously there's some other things that we need to take place," Sarkisian said Thursday after USC's practice. "But in the meantime, he's got to take care of his health and take care of himself, and when the time is right to bring him back, we will."

The first-year coach said Shaw still hasn't told the Trojans exactly how he sprained both of his ankles last weekend, extending this curious distraction into the weekend of Sarkisian's debut game. No. 15 USC hosts Fresno State on Saturday.

Shaw admitted his elaborate story of heroism was a lie Wednesday in a meeting with USC officials, but of-

fered no alternate explanation. Shaw was accompanied by attorney Donald Etra, who said no criminal activity was involved in Shaw's injuries.

"The injury was caused by a fall from his balcony at his apartment," Etra told The Associated Press on Thursday. "He is very remorseful. He accepted responsibility for telling the untruth. He has apologized to USC, and he's looking forward to putting this behind him."

Shaw lives at a large apartment complex on Figueroa Street in downtown Los Angeles, sharing a place with teammate Kevon Seymour.

The Los Angeles Police Department has confirmed that a man named Joshua Shaw was mentioned — but not as a suspect — in a report involving a break-in at a downtown apartment building Saturday night. The department has not made the report public.

While attempting to move his focus toward his debut game, Sarkisian also expressed regret for USC's decision to publicize Shaw's story, saying it "had as much to do with me as anybody else."

"Moving forward, we'll be a little bit more patient," Sarkisian added.



Southern Cal cornerback Josh Shaw has admitted to lying to school officials about how he sprained his ankles last weekend, retracting his story about his nephew being saved by jumping off a balcony to save his drowning nephew. Shaw has been suspended indefinitely from team activities.

USC coach refutes player's racism claims

LOS ANGELES — Running back Anthony Brown has quit Southern California's football team, and coach Steve Sarkisian was stunned Thursday by Brown's apparent accusations of racism against him on social media.

A photo of the words "Couldn't play for a racist man!!!!" was posted on what USC said was Brown's Instagram account. The posting was later deleted.

"Sark treated me like a slave in his Office," was posted in the caption to the photo, along with the hashtag "Fighton."

Sarkisian was told about the apparent posts from Brown, who is black, shortly after USC finished practice Thursday. The visibly disturbed coach called them "ridiculous," saying Brown had shown no indication he felt slighted or insulted in their relationship.

"If you ask anybody in any building, any of our players ... that's about the furthest thing from the truth," Sarkisian said. "Quite honestly, I'm shocked."

Brown's acrimonious departure is another blow to a program already reeling from the bizarre saga of cornerback Josh Shaw, who was caught in a lie about the circumstances in which he sprained both of his ankles last weekend. Shaw has been suspended indefinitely.

Brown is a senior who played cornerback for the Trojans until this year, starting two games in each of his first three seasons. He played in two games last year due to ankle injuries, racking up nine tackles at Notre Dame before missing the final eight games.

He switched positions to running back for his senior year, but Brown missed most of training camp with a hyperextended elbow.

— The Associated Press



Brown

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Texas A&M quarterback Kenny Hill threw for a school-record 511 yards and three touchdowns in Thursday's 52-28 rout of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

RAINER ENHARDT/AP

Hill sets single-game record in rout of SC

Texas A&M QB surpasses Manziel's mark

By PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Kenny Hill looked more than ready to replace Johnny Manziel on the field. He is still getting used to the attention that goes along with the job.

Hill broke Manziel's single-game passing record with 511 yards and No. 21 Texas A&M beat No. 9 South Carolina 52-28 on Thursday night, ending the Gamecocks' 18-game home win streak.

Hill looked poised and confident in his first start, leading the Aggies (1-0, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) to the most total and passing yards against South Carolina. The sophomore completed 44 of 60 passes with three touchdowns.

The hardest part of his night came after the celebration on the field.

"I just wanted to get the first press conference over with," said Hill, who hadn't spoken with reporters before. "I get nervous up here."

That's a far cry from Manziel, a lightning-rod personality quick to speak his mind and gesture to crowds and opponents. Johnny Football bore his flashy style all the way to the Heisman Trophy in his freshman year, and one of the Aggies' biggest worries was if they could find the same rhythm with a different leader.

Hill made it clear they could.

"We aren't a one-trick pony," Aggies coach Kevin Sumlin said.

But Hill would like a different nickname: "I don't really like 'Kenny Football.'"

Hill helped Texas A&M to a 31-14 half-time lead and finished up with the most passing yards allowed in Steve Spurrier's 10 seasons with the Gamecocks (0-1, 0-1).

"I think we all had a chip on our shoulders," Texas A&M defensive lineman Julien Obama said.

The Gamecocks played their first game since the departure of star defensive end Jadeveon Clowney — and it showed. South Carolina gave up seven TDs on A&Ms first 11 possessions.

Tra Carson ran for three touchdowns and receiver Malcolm Kennedy had 14 catches for 137 yards. The Aggies piled up 680 yards of offense, the most South Carolina's given up since Arkansas went for 650 in 2007.

Manziel held five of the Aggies' six best single-game passing marks, topped by his 464 yards in a loss to Alabama last season. Hill moved past them all with his flawless showing on the road.

"That team was so much better than us, it wasn't funny," said Spurrier. "They outcoached us, outplayed us, they were better prepared and they knew what they were doing."

AP Top 25 roundup

Ole Miss sloppy in season opener

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Bo Wallace threw four touchdowns passes in a sloppy season opener, and Mississippi pulled away in the fourth quarter for a 35-13 victory.

Shaking off Wallace's three first-half interceptions, the Rebels (1-0) got the victory before a sparse crowd in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game. But it was hardly the sort of convincing performance they were hoping for entering the season with their highest ranking since 2009.

Ole Miss led only 7-6 entering the fourth quarter before finishing off Boise State (0-1) when Wallace threw for TDs on three consecutive throws, ruining the debut of new Broncos coach Bryan Harsin.

Cody Core hauled in a pair of TDs: a 30-yarder in the final minute of the first quarter, then a 76-yarder midway through the fourth after grabbing a short pass on a slant route and breaking free down the middle of the field.

Also in the final period, Wallace went to Laquan Treadwell for a 14-yard TD and hooked up with Quincy Adoboyejo on a 31-yard scoring play.



THOMAS GRANNING/AP

Ole Miss defensive end C.J. Johnson celebrates after beating Boise State on Thursday. Mississippi won 35-13.

No. 19 Arizona State 45, Weber State 14: D.J. Foster ran for 147 yards and three touchdowns, Jaeden Strong had 10 catches for 146 yards, and the host Sun Devils opened their season with a rout.

Arizona State's quick-hitting offense overcame a slow start, marching over the Wildcats for 570 total yards.

Owls top Vandy for rare SEC win

By STEVE MEGARGEY
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — P.J. Walker threw two touchdown passes and ran for a third score as Temple forced seven turnovers to upset Vanderbilt 37-7 in a lightning-delayed game that ended Friday at 1:14 a.m. Central time.

Temple earned its first win over a Southeastern Conference team since beating Florida in 1938. The Owls spoiled the head coaching debut of Vanderbilt's Derek Mason, the former Stanford defensive coordinator hired after James Franklin left for Penn State.

Temple had 13 takeaways all of last season while going 2-10, but the Owls continually forced Vanderbilt into miscues. All but 10 of Temple's points came off turnovers. Temple picked off three passes to match its interception total from a year ago.

That included a game-changing play in the final minute of the first half. Vanderbilt trailed 14-7 and was seeking a game-tying touchdown when Avery Ellis sacked Stephen Rivers and forced a fumble that Ameer Robinson returned 55 yards for a Temple touchdown.

The night couldn't have gone much worse for Vanderbilt, which was trying to maintain the momentum it established during Franklin's three-year tenure.



BRIAN POWERS/AP

Temple's Tyler Matakovich and teammate Nate D. Smith embrace after defeating Vanderbilt 37-7 on Friday in Nashville, Tenn.

By the numbers

76

The number of years since the last time the Temple Owls defeated a Southeastern Conference opponent (Florida, 1938).

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Franklin went 9-4 and led Vanderbilt to a Top 25 finish each of his last two seasons and also brought a new attitude with his brash personality.

That spark was missing against Temple as the Commodores made mistake after mistake. The oddsities started long before the opening kickoff.

Repeated lightning strikes prevented the game from starting until 9:52 p.m. Central time. Fans couldn't enter the stadium and the teams didn't start warming up until 35 minutes before the opening kickoff.

College GameDay



JULIE BENNETT, AL.com/AP

Player to watch

Jeremy Johnson QB | Auburn

The 6-foot-5, 230-pound Johnson, Alabama's high school Mr. Football two years ago, will start in place of Nick Marshall, who was punished for being arrested for marijuana possession in July. Johnson started one nonconference game last year and played most of the way in another when Marshall was hurt. He was 29-for-41 passing for 422 yards and rushed seven times for 47 yards. Johnson threw six touchdown passes and two interceptions.

Arkansas at A, 6 Auburn
midnight Saturday, CET
AFN-Xtra (joined in progress)



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Ohio State's Joey Bosa, right, sacks Michigan State's Connor Cook during the Big Ten championship game last year. Bosa and the Ohio State defense, who open against Navy on Saturday, must get ready for the Midshipmen's lethal triple-option game. Navy's Keenan Reynolds has been touted as the team's best quarterback ever, and he now co-defensive coordinator Chris Ash is charged with improving the No. 5 Buckeyes against a team that runs on four of every five plays.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	All	W	L
W	L	W	L
Boston College	0	0	0
Clemson	0	0	0
Florida State	0	0	0
Louisville	0	0	0
N.C. State	0	0	0
Syracuse	0	0	0
Wake Forest	0	0	1
Coastal Division			
Conf.	All	W	L
W	L	W	L
Duke	0	0	0
Georgia Tech	0	0	0
Miami	0	0	0
North Carolina	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0
Virginia	0	0	0
Virginia Tech	0	0	0

Game of the week: No. 1 Florida State vs. Oklahoma State. The reigning national champion Seminoles and Heisman winner Jameis Winston face the Cowboys in the home of the Dallas Cowboys on Saturday night. The Seminoles can tie a school record with their 17th straight victory. The Cowboys have just four returning defensive starters from a 10-win team. FSU opened as a 17-point favorite in this matchup, though Oklahoma State has won 11 of 13 in Texas since 2010.

Inside the numbers: Lost amid Virginia's struggles has been the play of senior tailback Kevin Parks, the league's No. 2 rusher with 1,031 yards last year. Parks has three consecutive 100-yard rushing games coming into Saturday's opener against No. 7 UCLA.

Player to watch: Syracuse QB Terrel Hunt, a 6-foot-3, 233-pound senior, is back to provide a run-pass threat in Friday's opener against Villanova.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	All	W	L
W	L	W	L
Rutgers	0	0	1
Indiana	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0
Michigan	0	0	0
Michigan St.	0	0	0
Oklahoma St.	0	0	0
Ohio State	0	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0
West			
Conf.	All	W	L
W	L	W	L
Minnesota	0	0	1
Iowa	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0
Northwestern	0	0	0
Purdue	0	0	0
x-Penn State	0	0	0

Game of the week: No. 14 Wisconsin vs. No. 12 LSU. Despite losing 13 starters from last year's 9-4 team, including eight on defense, the Badgers are a popular pick to win the Big Ten West. What better way to measure themselves than by playing one of the SEC's most consistent winners?

Inside the numbers: At 10 games, Michigan State has the second-longest winning streak in the Bowl Subdivision. Florida State has won 16 straight.

Player to watch: No player will be scrutinized more this week than Ohio State's J.T. Barrett. He'll be the first freshman since Art Schlichter in 1978 to start an opener at QB for Ohio State. Barrett has been pressed into duty because of the season-ending shoulder injury to Heisman Trophy front-runner Braxton Miller.

Big 12			
Conf.	All	W	L
W	L	W	L
Baylor	0	0	0
Iowa State	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0
Kansas State	0	0	0
Oklahoma	0	0	0
Oklahoma State	0	0	0
TCU	0	0	0
Texas Tech	0	0	0
Texas	0	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	0

Game of the week: New Texas coach Charlie Strong vs. North Texas coach Dan McCarney. Strong's first game with the Longhorns comes at home Saturday night against a championship friend. Strong, McCarney and Texas defensive coordinator Vance Bedford were on Urban Meyer's staff together when Florida won its 2008 national title.

Inside the numbers: One-third of the Big 12's nonconference games (10 of 30) are against teams from the other four power conferences. None of those other leagues (ACC, Big Ten, Pac-12, SEC) has a higher percentage of such matchups.

Player to watch: Baylor senior QB Bryce Petty leading the Big 12 champion Bears into their new stadium Sunday night. Petty threw for 4,200 yards with 32 touchdowns and only three interceptions last season when he finally got his chance starting, and also led the league with 14 rushing TDs.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	All	W	L
W	L	W	L
California	0	0	0
Oregon	0	0	0
Oregon State	0	0	0
Stanford	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0
Washington State	0	0	1
South			
Conf.	All	W	L
W	L	W	L
Arizona State	0	0	1
Utah	0	0	1
UCLA	0	0	0
USC	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0

Game of the week: No. 7 UCLA at Virginia. A cross-country trip to Virginia on Saturday for the Bruins' season opener should prepare quarterback Brett Hundley or two-way star Myles Jack for December's Heisman Trophy presentation. A neutral-site game against Texas in Arlington, Texas, should give UCLA familiarity with the venue that will host the College Football Playoff championship game on Jan. 12.

Inside the numbers: Since 1963, Arizona is 15-1 when playing a home game on Labor Day weekend. That includes 14-straight wins. The Wildcats lost UNLV on Friday night.

Player to watch: Oregon running back Thomas Tyner is ready to live up to the expectations As a freshman, he was third on the Ducks with 711 yards rushing, and he scored nine touchdowns. He had a breakout game against Oregon State, with 22 carries for 140 yards and a TD. The No. 3 Ducks host South Dakota on Saturday.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force vs. Nichols State
Next game: At Wyoming Sept. 6

Army does not play
Next game: Hosts Buffalo on Sept. 6

Navy vs. Ohio State at Baltimore
Next game: At Temple on Sept. 6

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE	
Thursday	
No. 21 Texas A&M 52, No. 9 South Carolina 28	
No. 18 Mississippi 35, Boise State 13	
No. 19 Arizona State 45, Weber State 14	
Friday	
No. 8 Michigan State vs. Jacksonville State	
Saturday's games	
No. 1 Florida State vs. Oklahoma State at Arlington, Texas	
No. 2 Alabama vs. West Virginia at Atlanta	
No. 3 Oregon vs. South Dakota	
No. 4 Oklahoma vs. Louisiana Tech	
No. 5 Ohio State vs. Navy at Baltimore	
No. 6 Auburn vs. Arkansas	
No. 7 UCLA at Virginia	
No. 11 Stanford vs. UC Davis	
No. 12 Georgia vs. No. 16 Clemson	
No. 13 LSU vs. No. 14 Wisconsin at Houston	
No. 15 Southern Cal vs. Fresno State	
No. 17 Notre Dame vs. Rice	
No. 20 Kansas State vs. Stephen F. Austin	
No. 22 Nebraska vs. FAU	
No. 23 North Carolina vs. Liberty	
No. 24 Missouri vs. South Dakota State	
No. 25 Washington at Hawaii	
Sunday's game	
No. 10 Baylor vs. SMU	

Game of the week: No. 16 Clemson at No. 12 Georgia. One year ago these teams provided one of the best opening-weekend matchups in a game Clemson won 38-35. This could come down to whether Clemson's defense can slow down Georgia running back Todd Gurley and whether Georgia's offensive line can keep Clemson defensive end Vic Beasley away from Bulldogs QB Hunter Mason.

Inside the numbers: Only five teams have quarterbacks who started the majority of games last season. Those teams are Arkansas (Brandon Allen), Auburn (Nick Marshall), Mississippi (Bo Wallace), Mississippi State (Dak Prescott) and Tennessee (Justin Worley).

Player to watch: LSU running back Leonard Fournette is only a freshman, already generating Heisman Trophy. While that may be premature, he has a chance to impress when the No. 13 Tigers host No. 14 Wisconsin on Saturday.

SPORTS



Johnny who?

Hill smashes Manziel passing mark
as Aggies rout Gamecocks | **Page 30**

MLB

Royals find the recipe

Kansas City brewing up a shot at first playoff berth since '85

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

The recipe for small-market success in baseball generally goes something like this: Develop talent through your farm system, strike on

a couple reclamation projects, uncover a few diamonds in the rough and then make one or two big trades to put you over the top.

The Kansas City Royals have followed that blueprint to near-perfection, a big reason why the long-downtrodden franchise is leading the AL Central and on the cusp of its first playoff appear-

ance in nearly 30 years.

"It's hard. There's very little room for error when you're a small-market club," general manager Dayton Moore said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Indeed, the notoriously frugal Royals play in a market a fraction of the size of Los Angeles or New York. They draw

smaller crowds that pay a pittance compared to Angels and Yankees fans. And the result is a much thinner checkbook than most of their big league brethren.

Kansas City's Opening Day payroll? Just over \$91 million, a club record. But midway through last week the five other division leaders — the Orioles, **SEE ROYALS ON PAGE 27**



MCT